

STARBLAZER

SPACE FICTION ADVENTURE IN PICTURES No. 111

20p



SPACE GHOST!

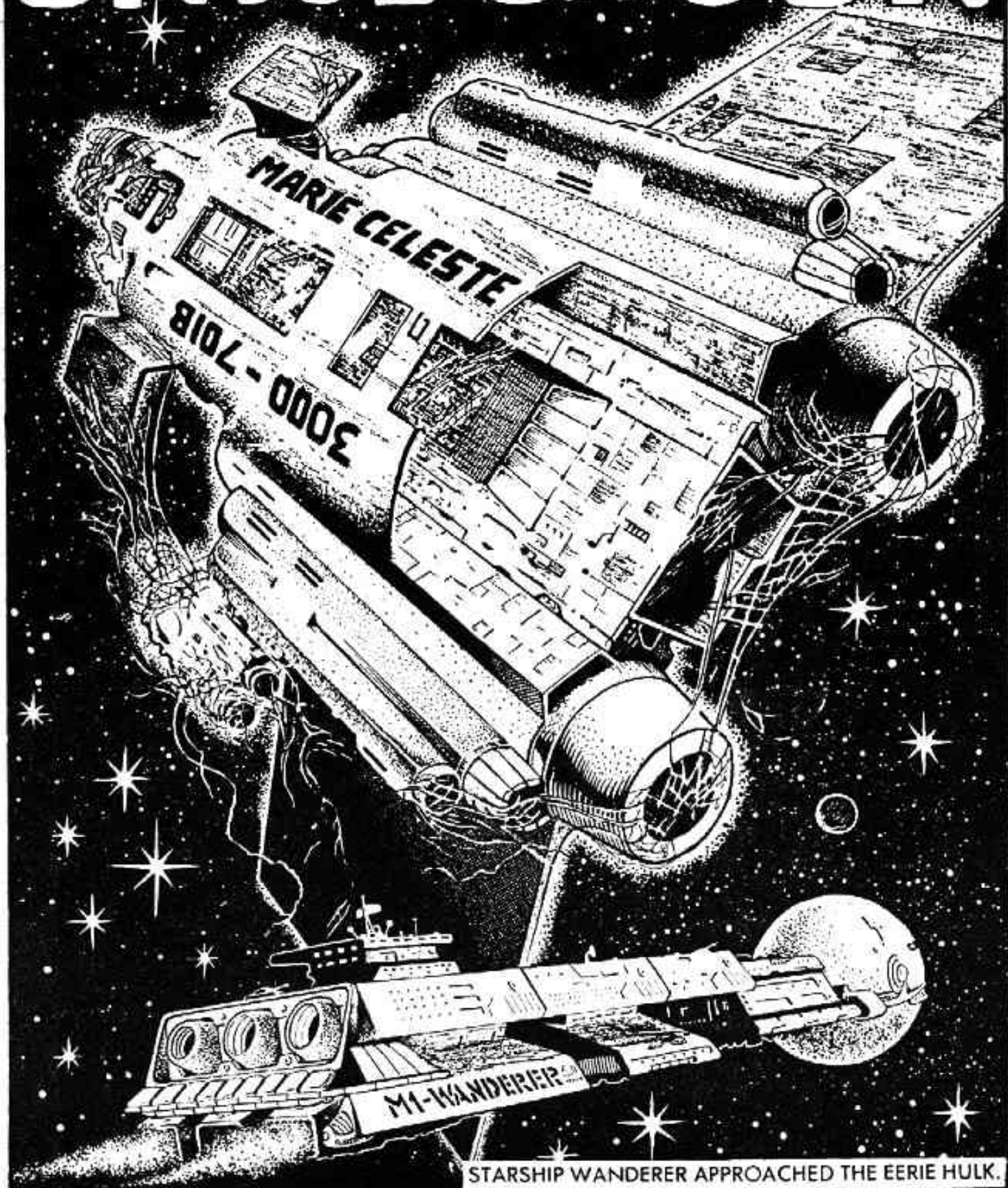
STARBLAZER



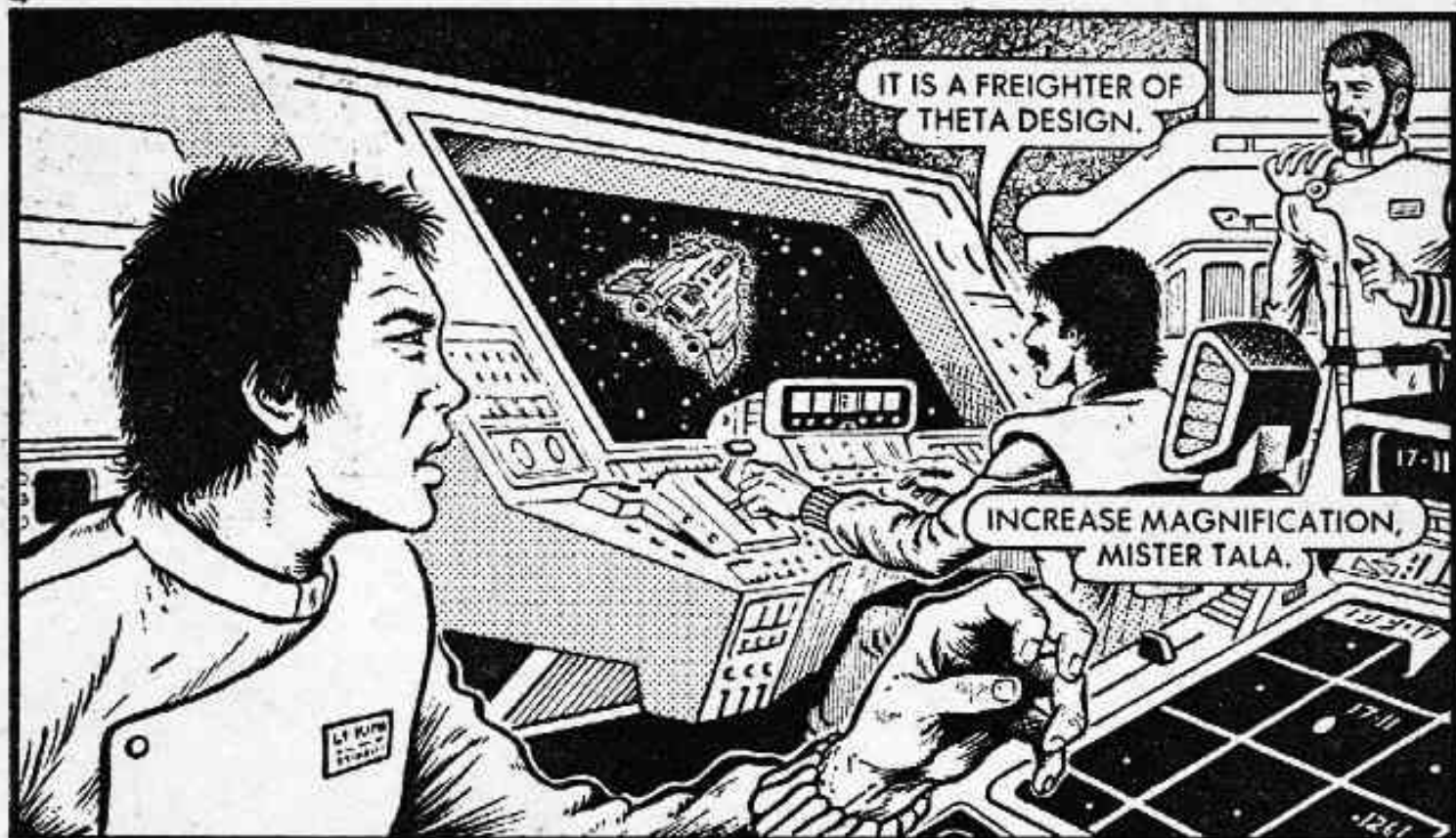
DEEP SPACE WAS FILLED WITH UNKNOWN DANGERS. MANY CRAFT DID NOT RETURN FROM INTERSTELLAR TRIPS. ALL DISAPPEARANCES WERE LOGGED, AND INVESTIGATED AS FAR AS POSSIBLE, BUT USUALLY ENDED UP CATEGORISED AS—LOST, PRESUMED DESTROYED.

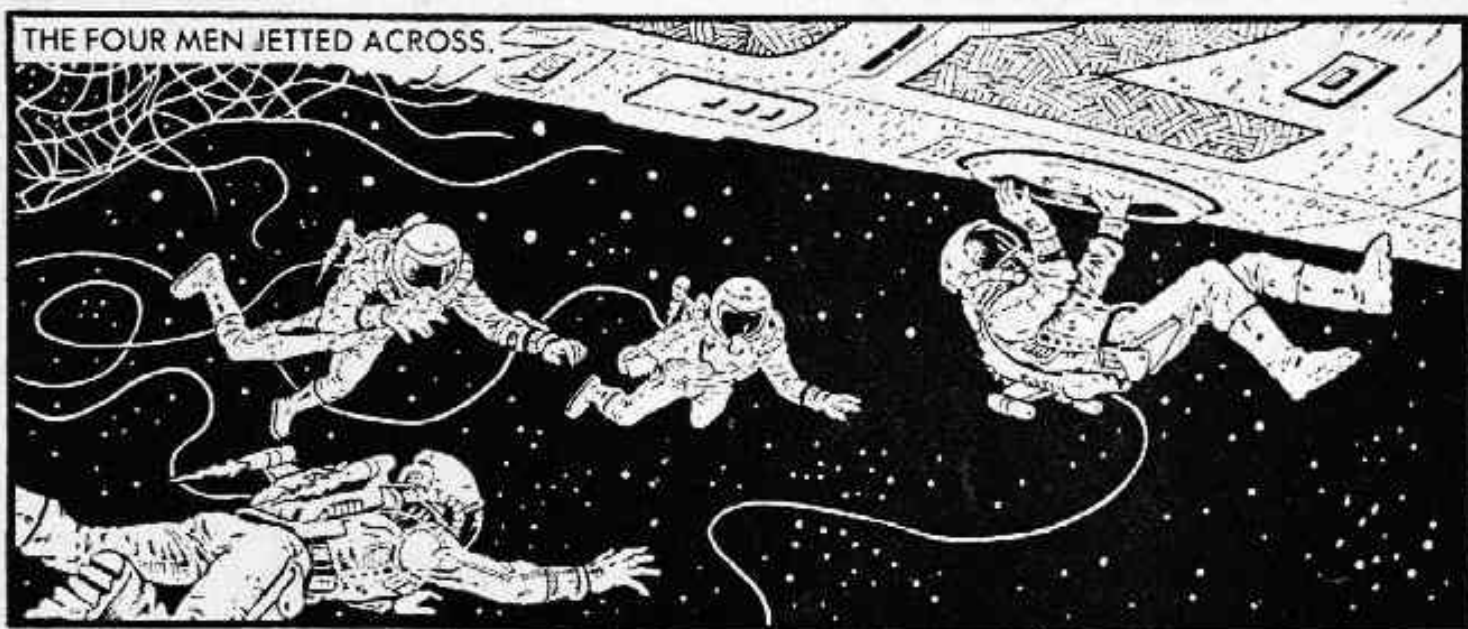
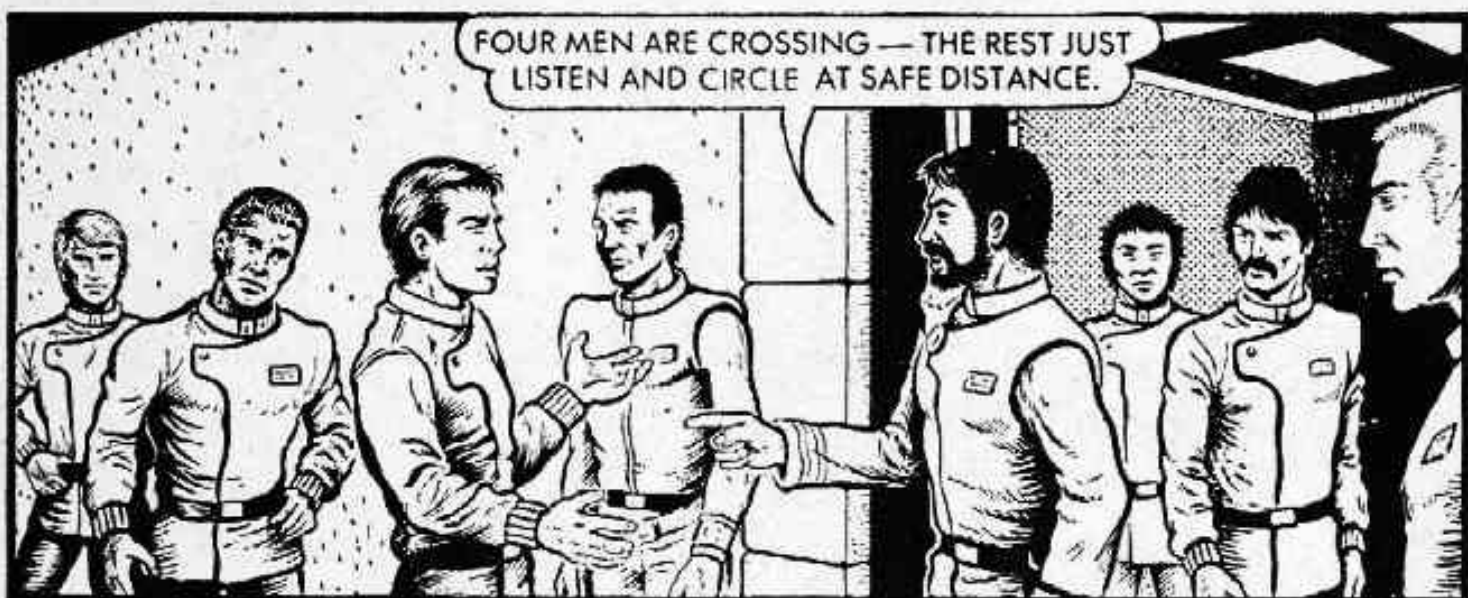
CAPTAIN WILLIAM G. BRENT WAS COMMANDER OF AN EARTH DEEP SPACE MONITOR, WANDERER, WHEN IT PICKED UP AN OBJECT ON THE SCANNERS. IT WAS A...

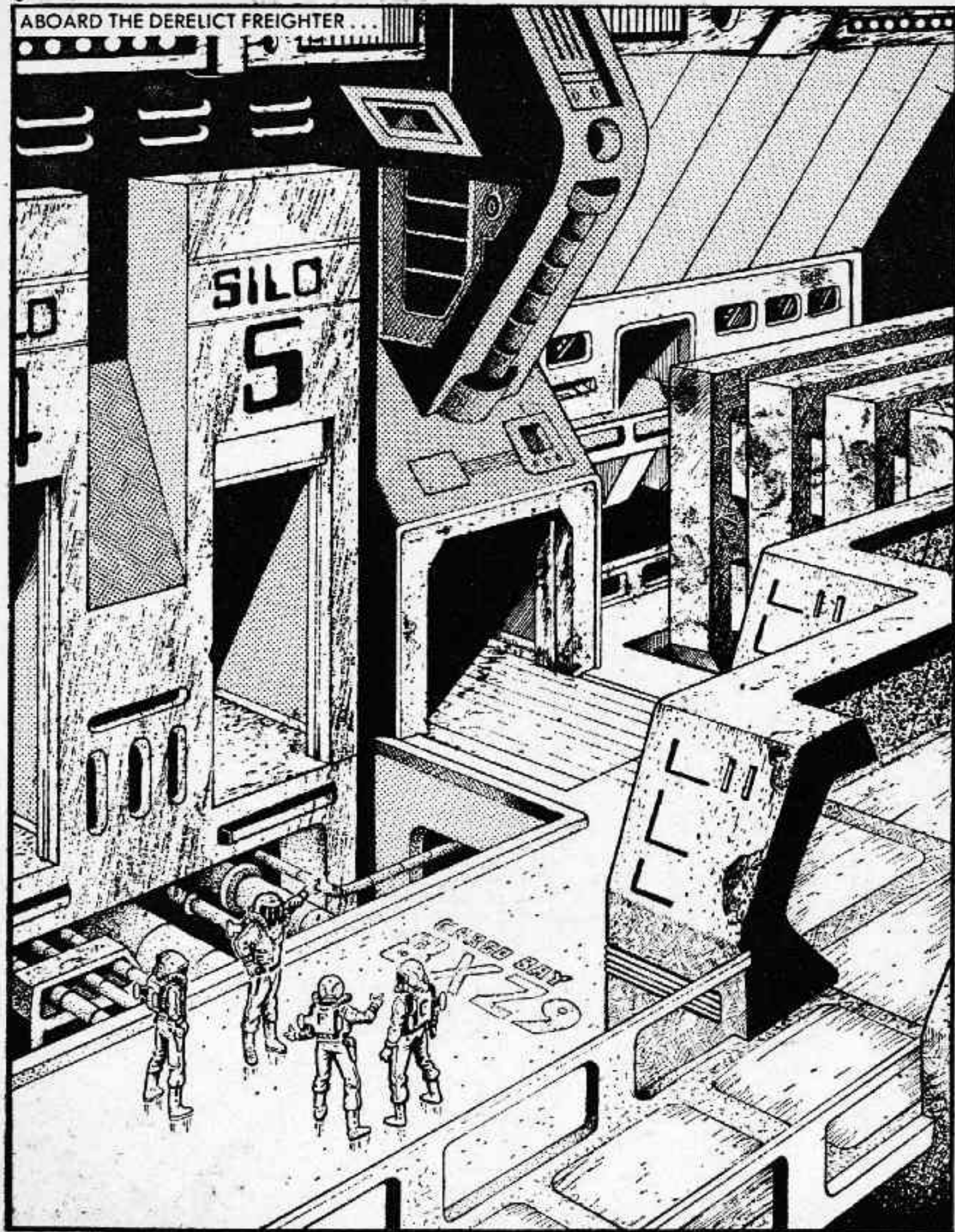
SPACE GHOST!



STARSHIP WANDERER APPROACHED THE EERIE HULK.







THE AIR WAS BREATHABLE, SO THEIR SPACE SUITS WERE REMOVED —

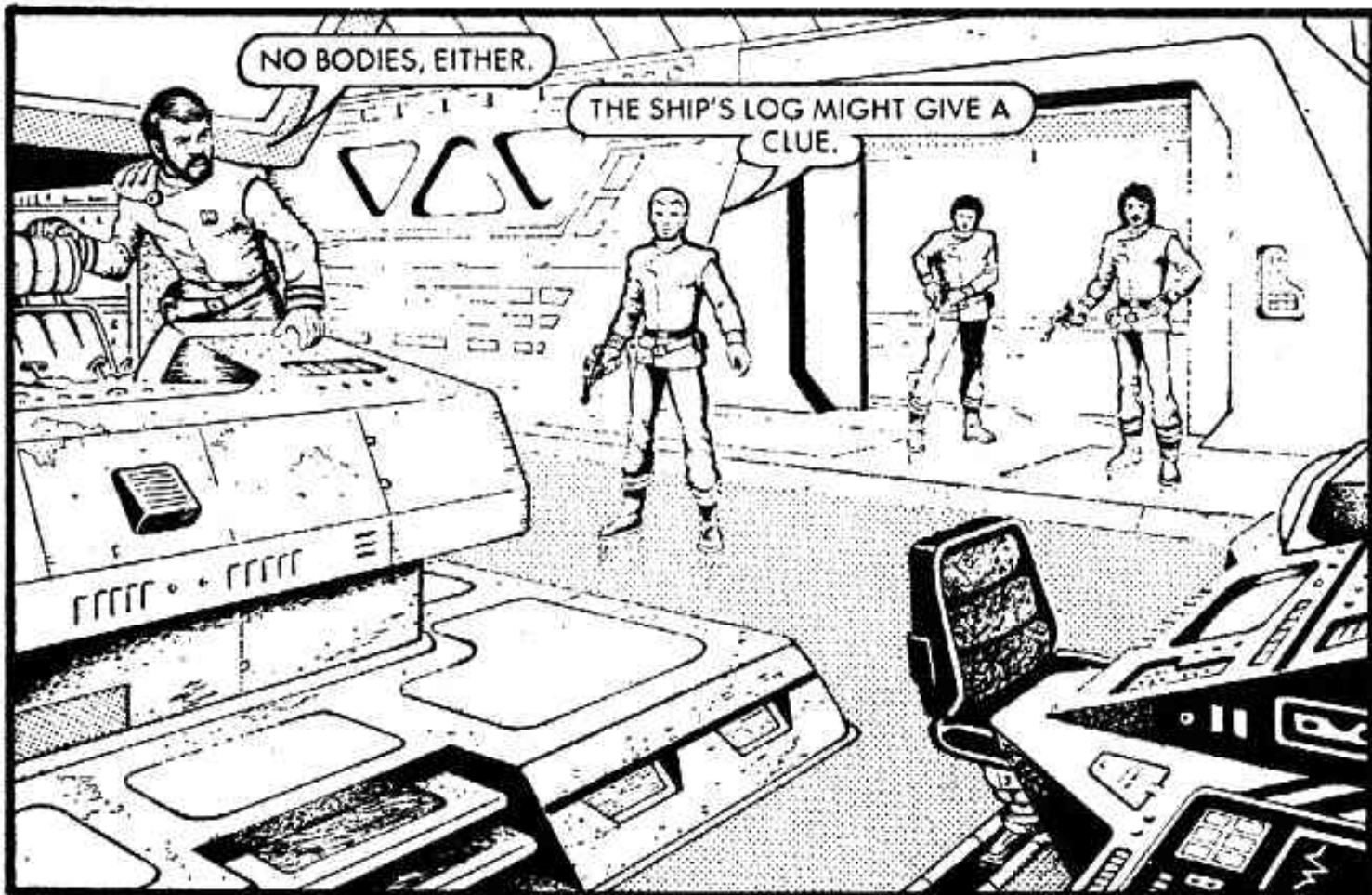
CALLING WANDERER! ARRIVAL COMPLETED.
FREIGHTER APPEARS COMPLETELY EMPTY. NO
CARGO IN BAYS.

PLENTY OF DUST. NO SIGN OF THE
FUNGUS OR LICHEN WE SAW ON
THE OUTSIDE OF CRAFT.

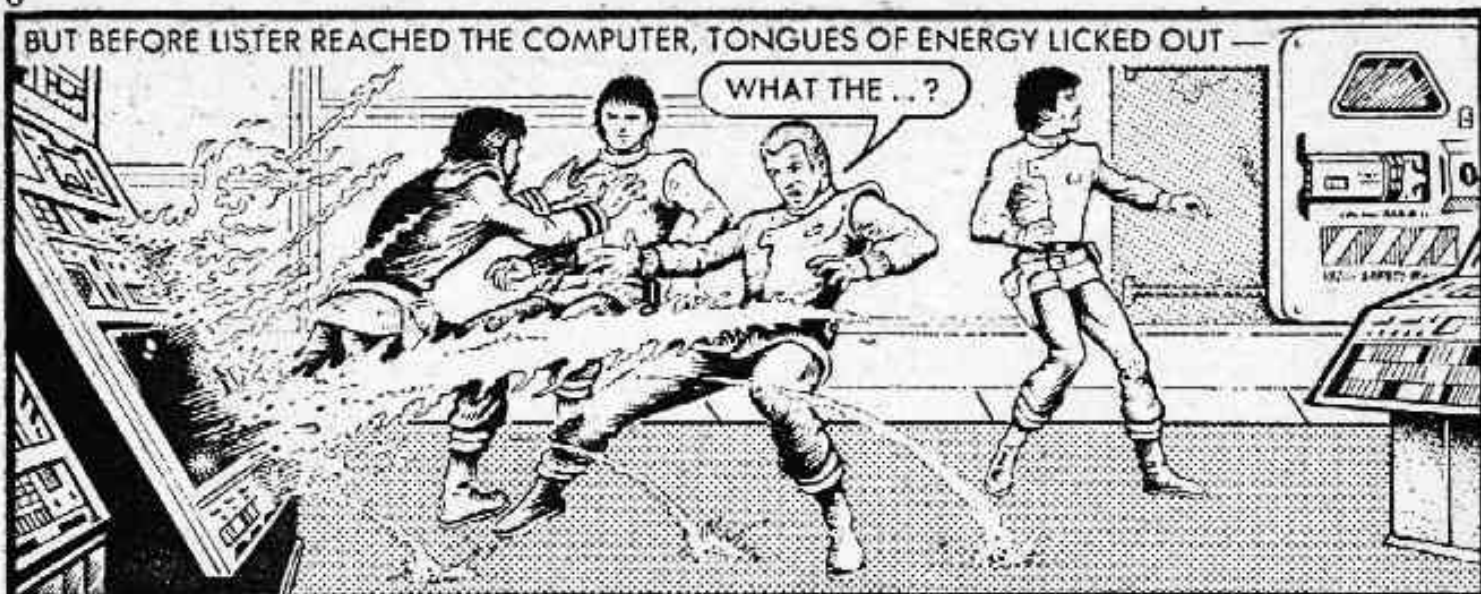


NO BODIES, EITHER.

THE SHIP'S LOG MIGHT GIVE A
CLUE.



BUT BEFORE LISTER REACHED THE COMPUTER, TONGUES OF ENERGY LICKED OUT —

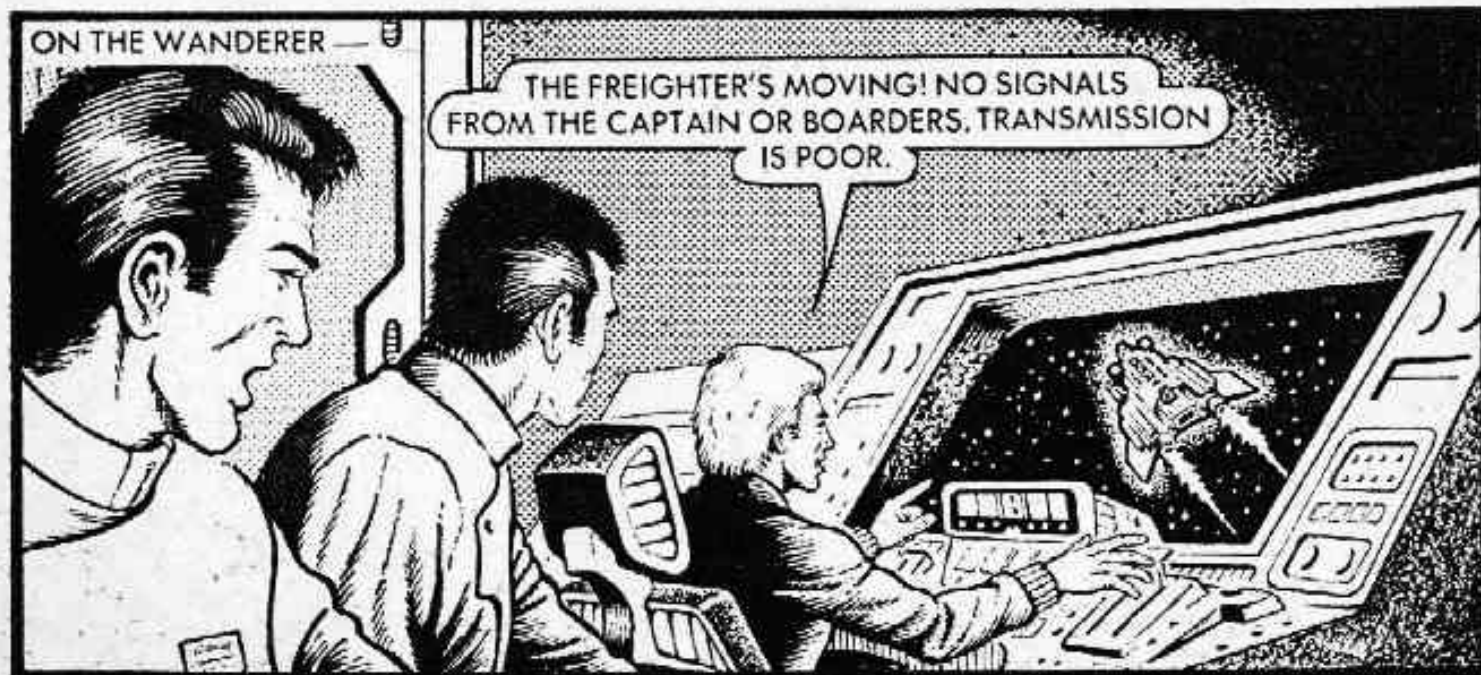


THIS WAY, CAPTAIN!
AN EMERGENCY DOOR.

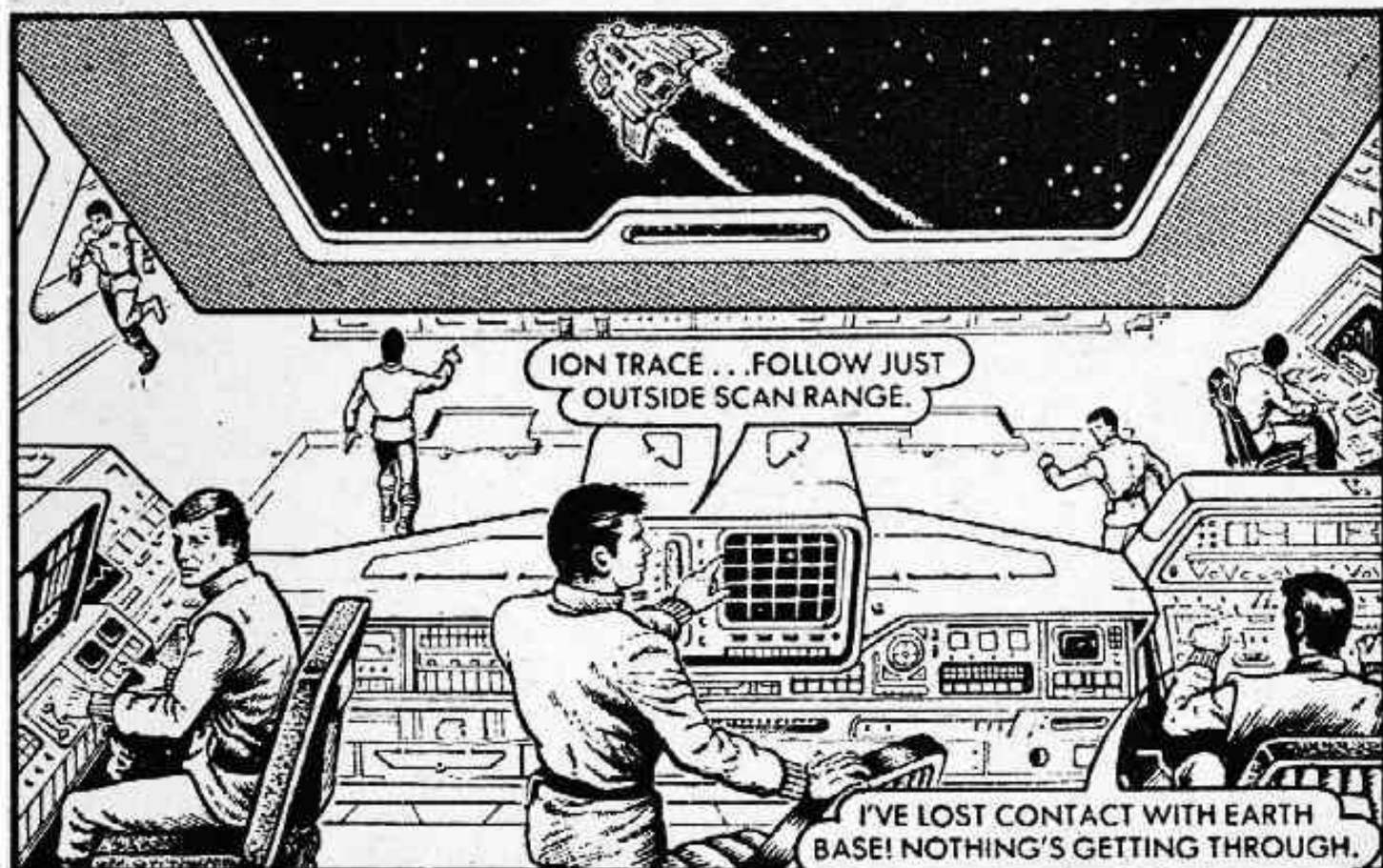
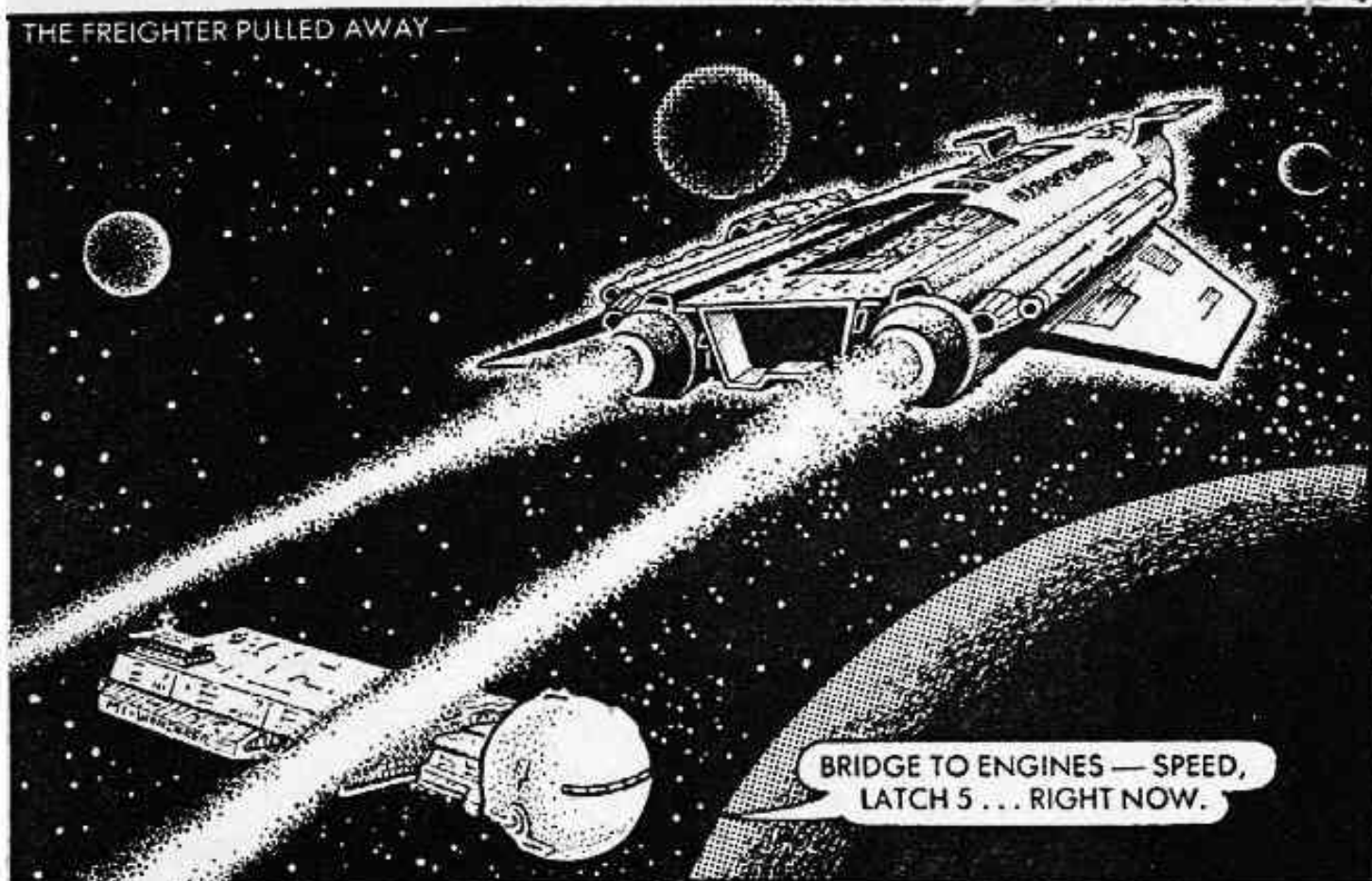


ON THE WANDERER —

THE FREIGHTER'S MOVING! NO SIGNALS
FROM THE CAPTAIN OR BOARDERS. TRANSMISSION
IS POOR.



THE FREIGHTER PULLED AWAY —



MEANWHILE —

THE EXTINGUISHERS!
GRAB THEM!

IT'S STRANGE THERE'S NO
HEAT FROM THE FIRE!

SOMETHING'S HAPPENING! THERE'S
A FORCE-FIELD SEALING US IN.

THE FREIGHTER'S
IN MOTION!

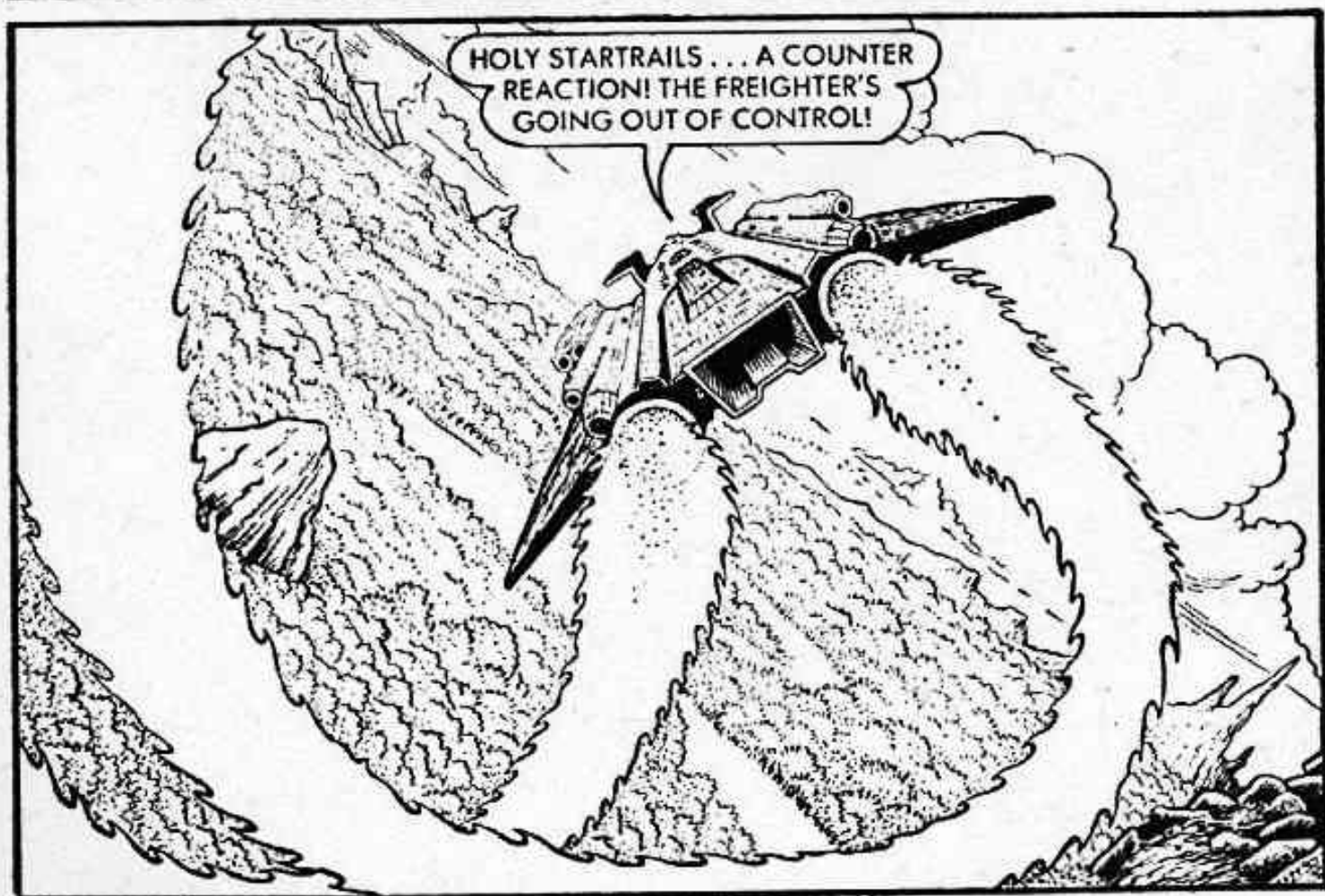
THE FLAMES WERE AN ILLUSION! SOME
DEVICE TO DRIVE US IN HERE! WE CAN'T
BREAK THE FORCE-FIELD! WHAT IS GOING
ON?

INITIAL SAFETY CHIMBER

THE FREIGHTER HURTLED ON INTO AN UNKNOWN PLANETARY SYSTEM —

I CAN'T GET THROUGH
TO THE WANDERER ...

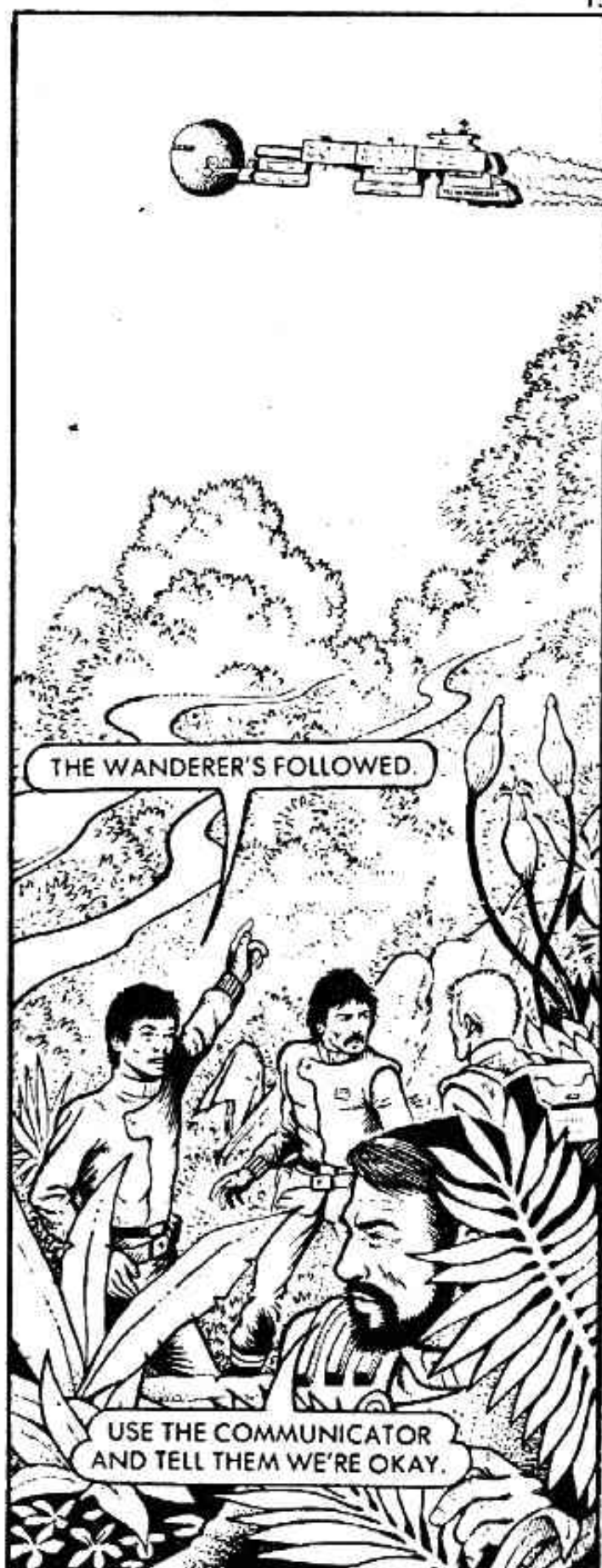






THE MARIE CELESTE PLOUGHED INTO THE SUB-TROPICAL GALACTIC WASTE —





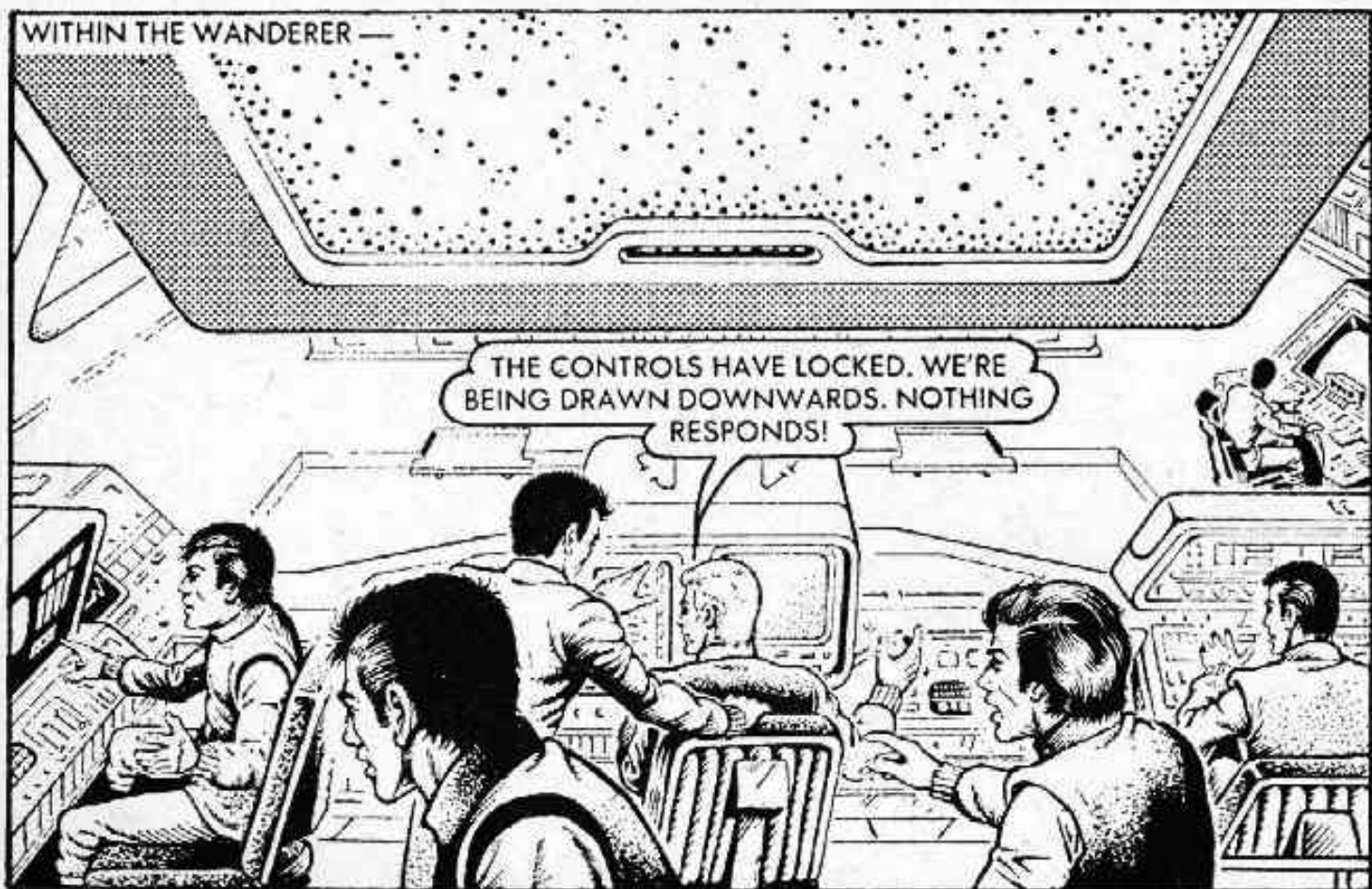
SUDDENLY, A BEAM OF ENERGY LANCED OUT —

WHAT'S HAPPENING! A RAY! IT'S
FOCUSED ON THE WANDERER!



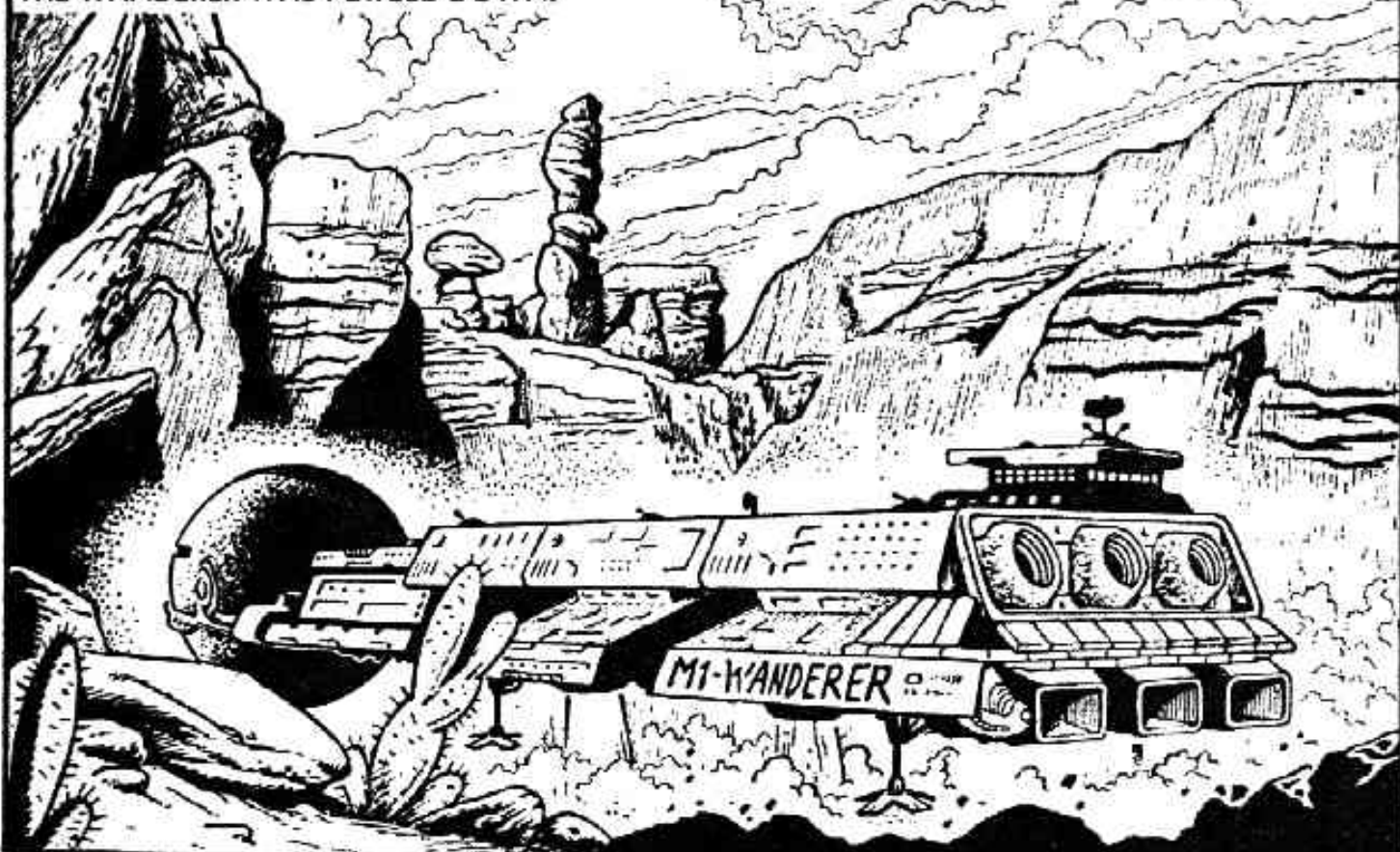
WITHIN THE WANDERER —

THE CONTROLS HAVE LOCKED. WE'RE
BEING DRAWN DOWNWARDS. NOTHING
RESPONDS!





THE WANDERER WAS FORCED DOWN.



INSIDE THE CRAFT —

DON'T OPEN THE HATCH!
SOME POWER BEAMED US HERE
DELIBERATELY.

BUT IT WAS TOO LATE —

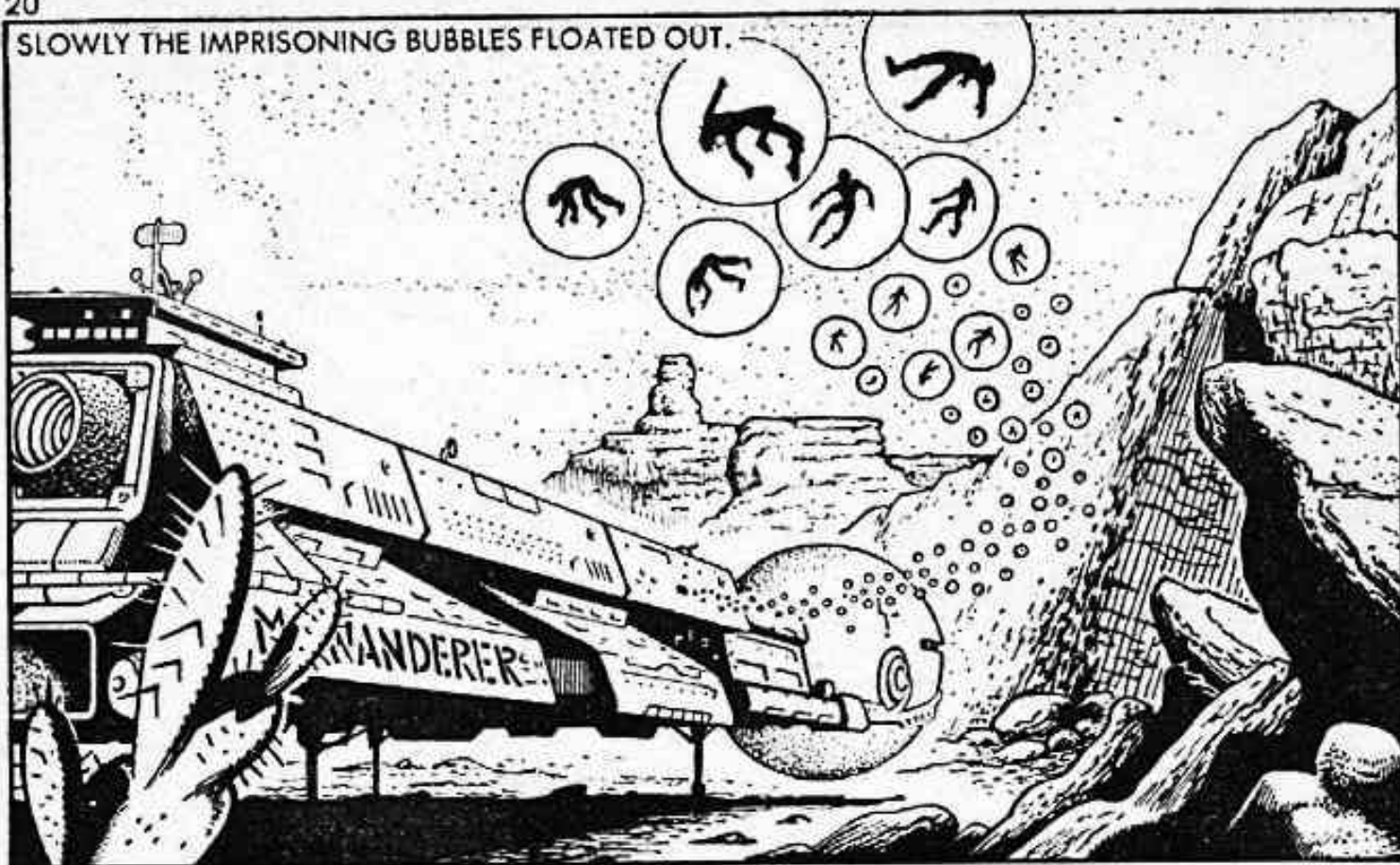
BUBBLES! HUNDREDS
OF THEM!

CLOSE THAT HATCH!

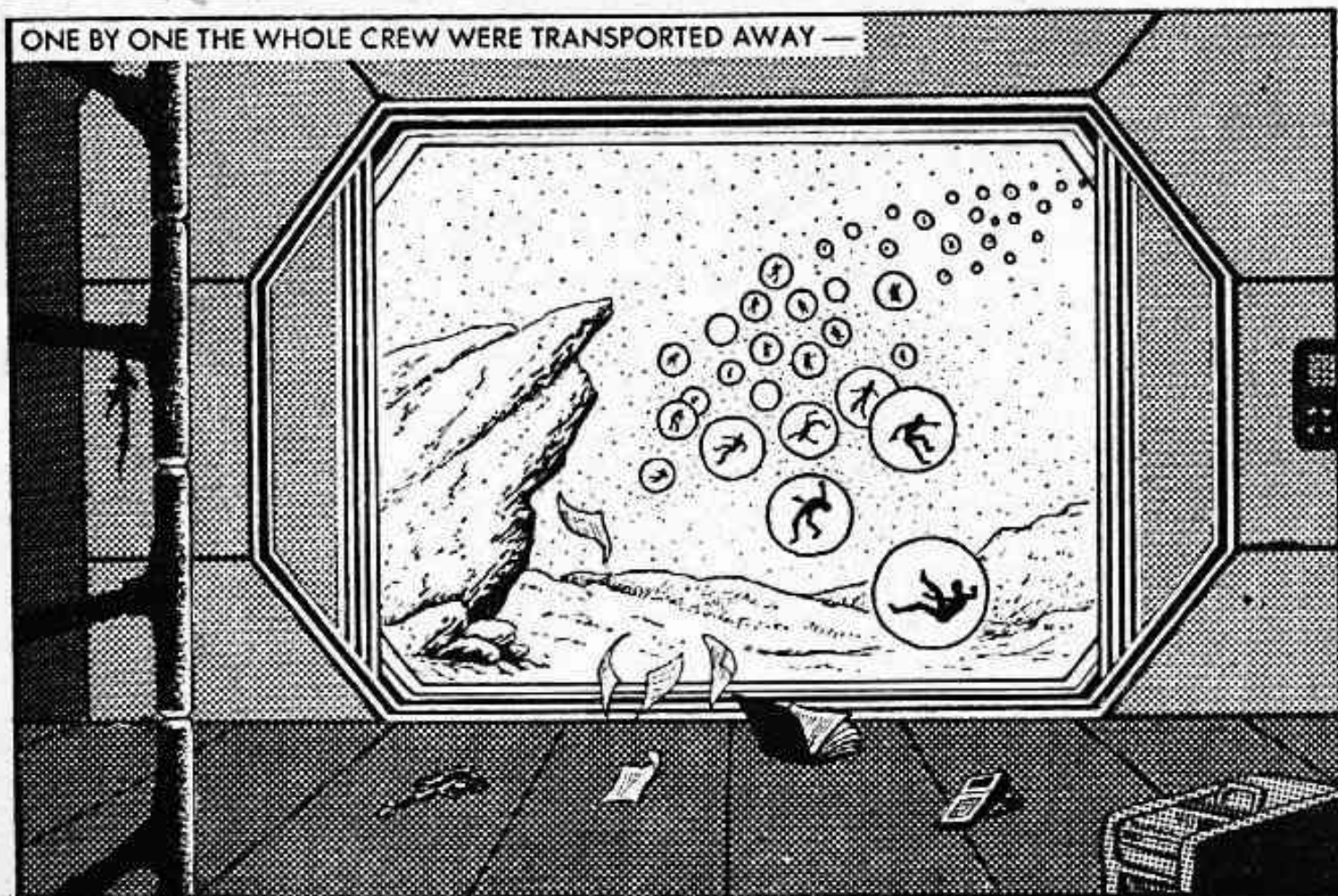
B



SLOWLY THE IMPRISONING BUBBLES FLOATED OUT.



ONE BY ONE THE WHOLE CREW WERE TRANSPORTED AWAY —



MEANWHILE, IN THE FOLIAGE —

THE SHIP WENT
DOWN OVER THERE.

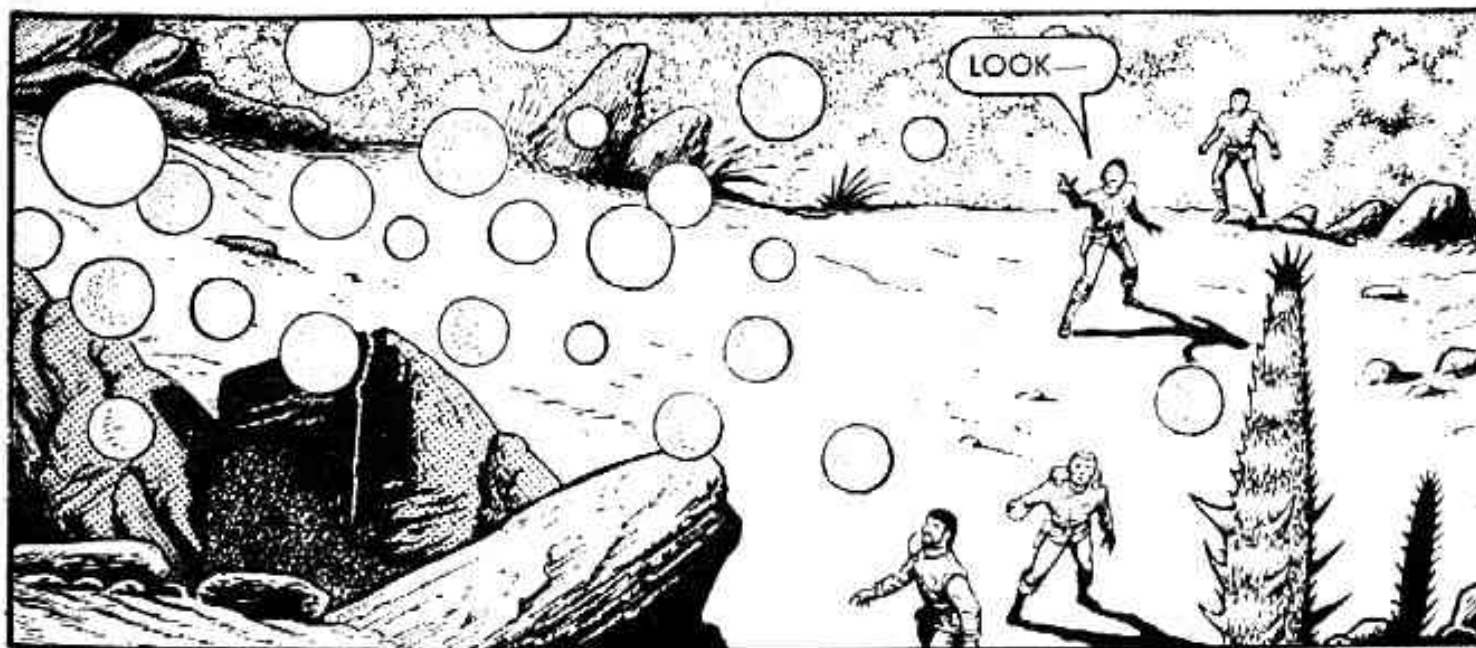


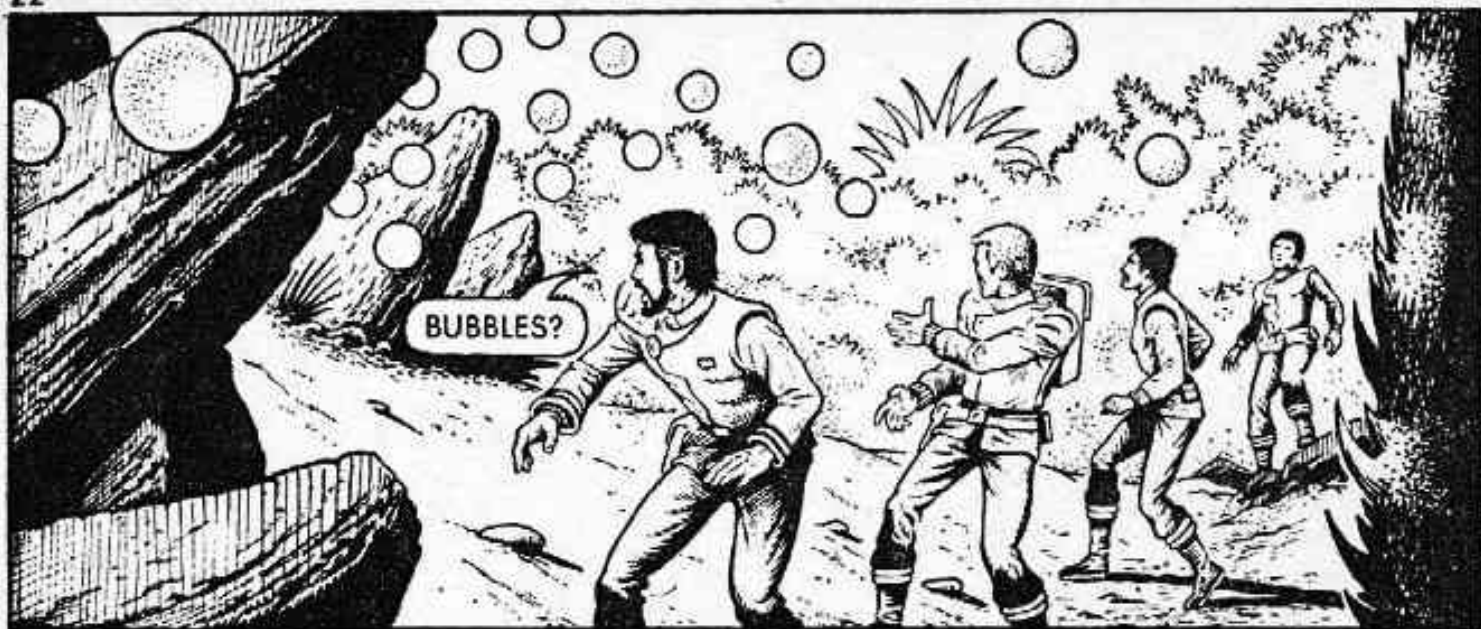
THAT FREIGHTER MUST HAVE BEEN
SOME KIND OF TRAP.

YES, THAT HAD CROSSED MY
MIND!



LOOK —

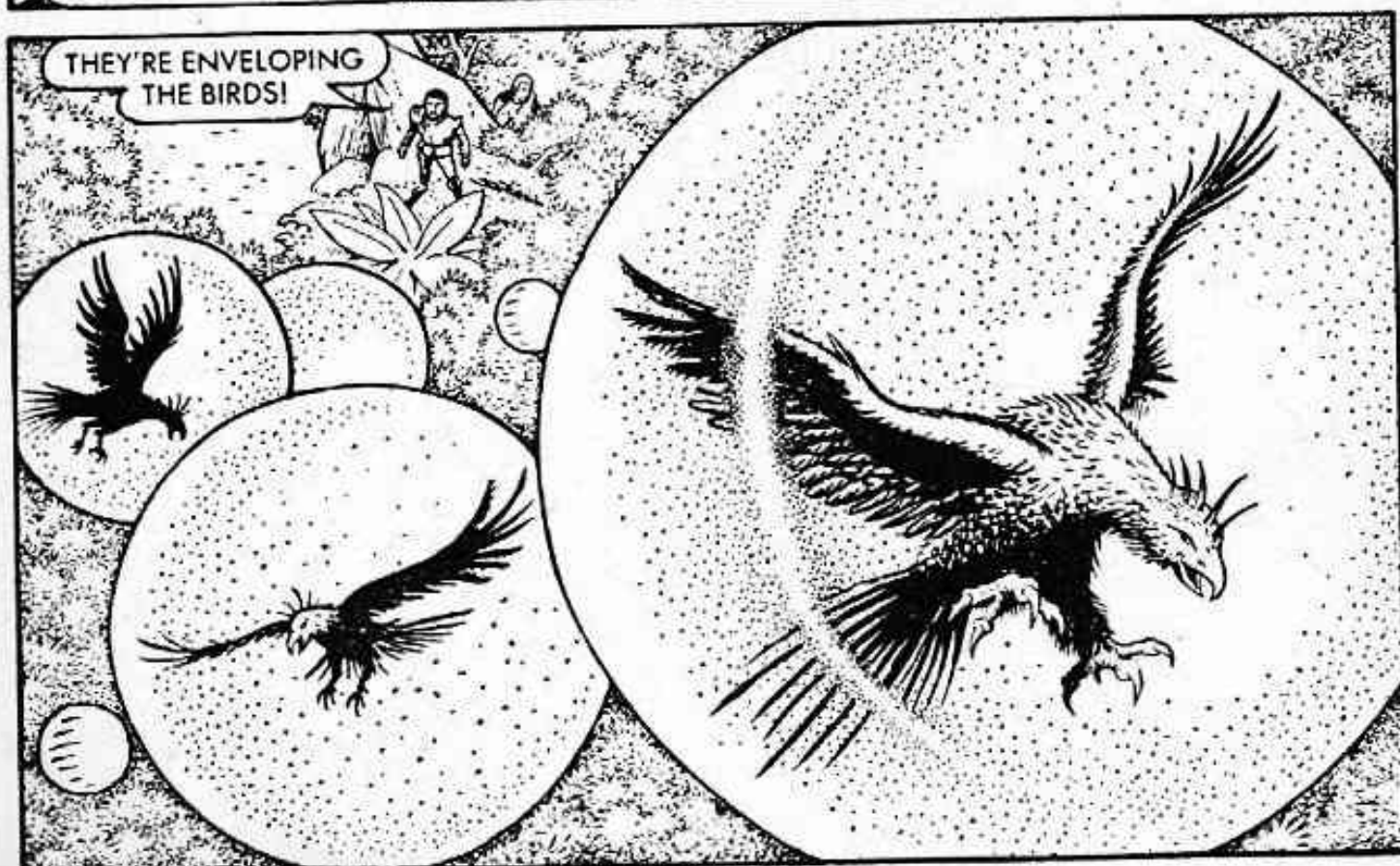


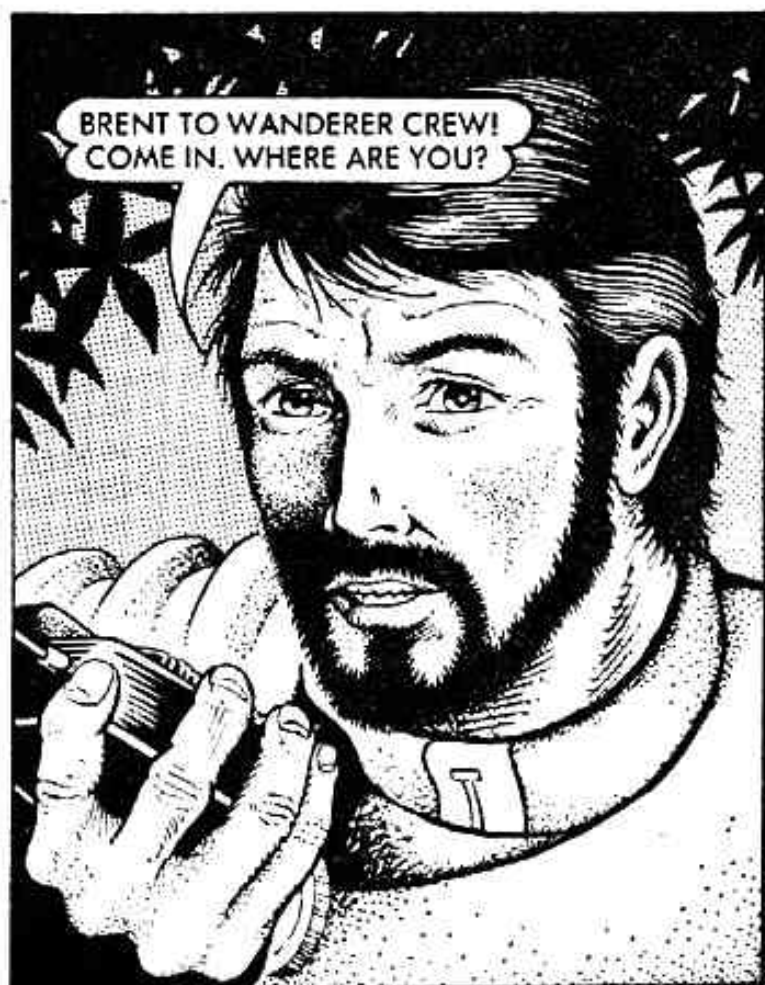




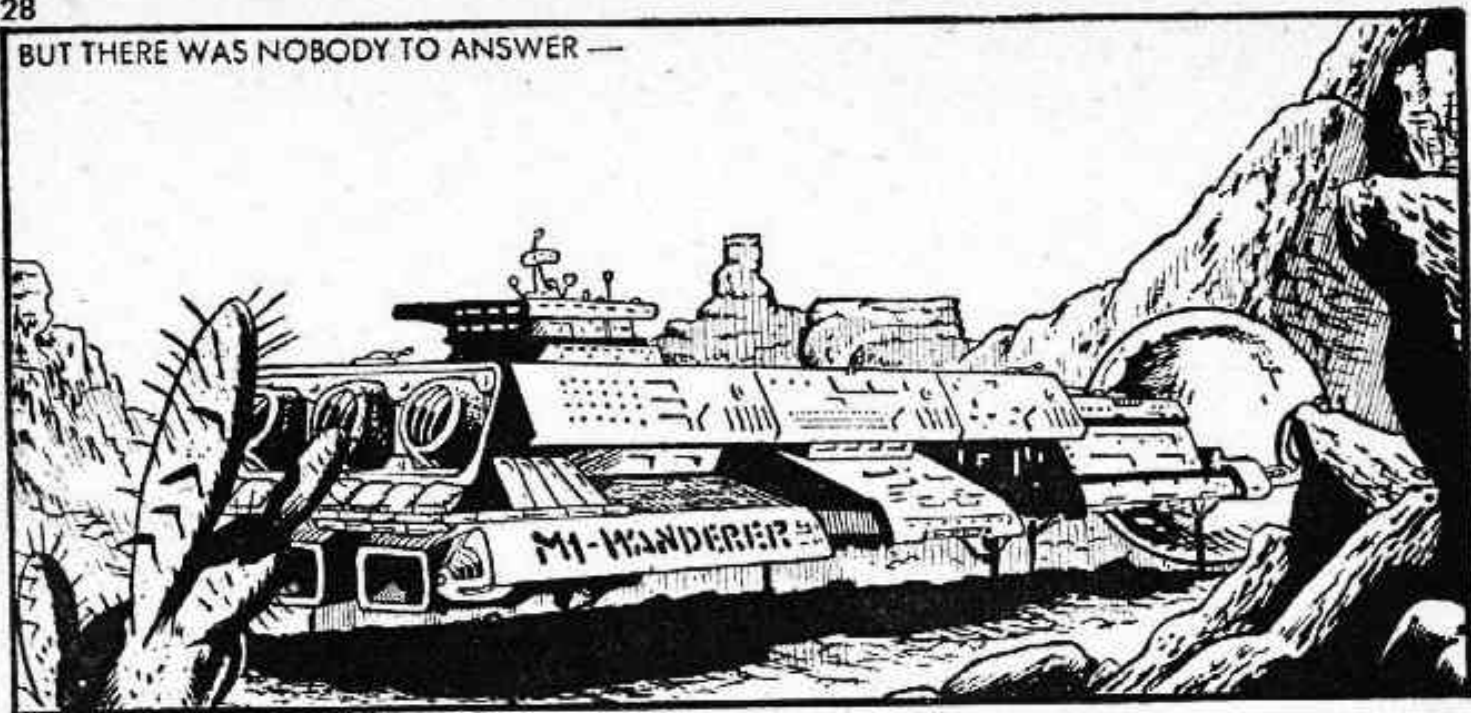






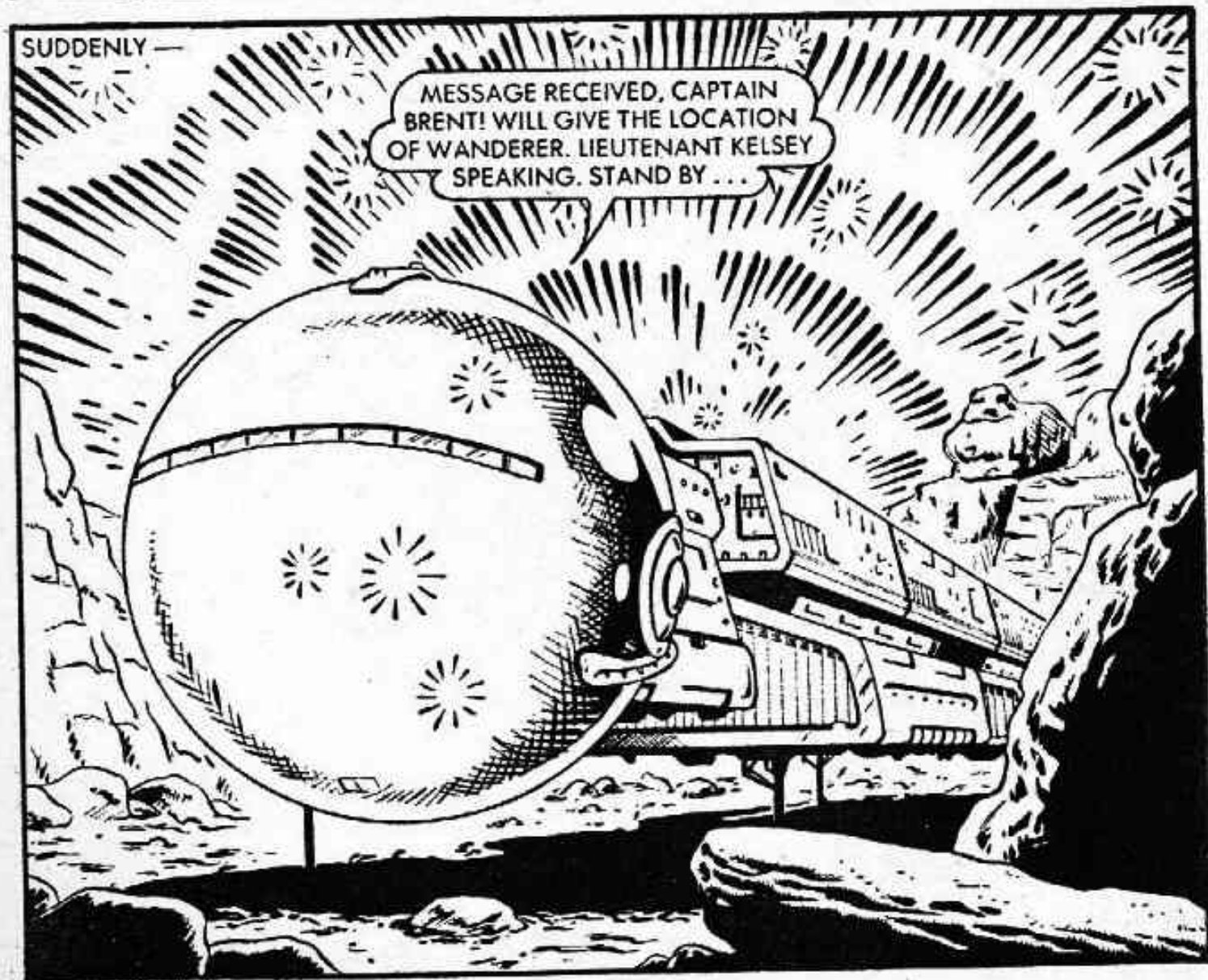


BUT THERE WAS NOBODY TO ANSWER —



SUDDENLY —

MESSAGE RECEIVED, CAPTAIN
BRENT! WILL GIVE THE LOCATION
OF WANDERER. LIEUTENANT KELSEY
SPEAKING. STAND BY...



BRENT PICKED UP THE ANSWER —

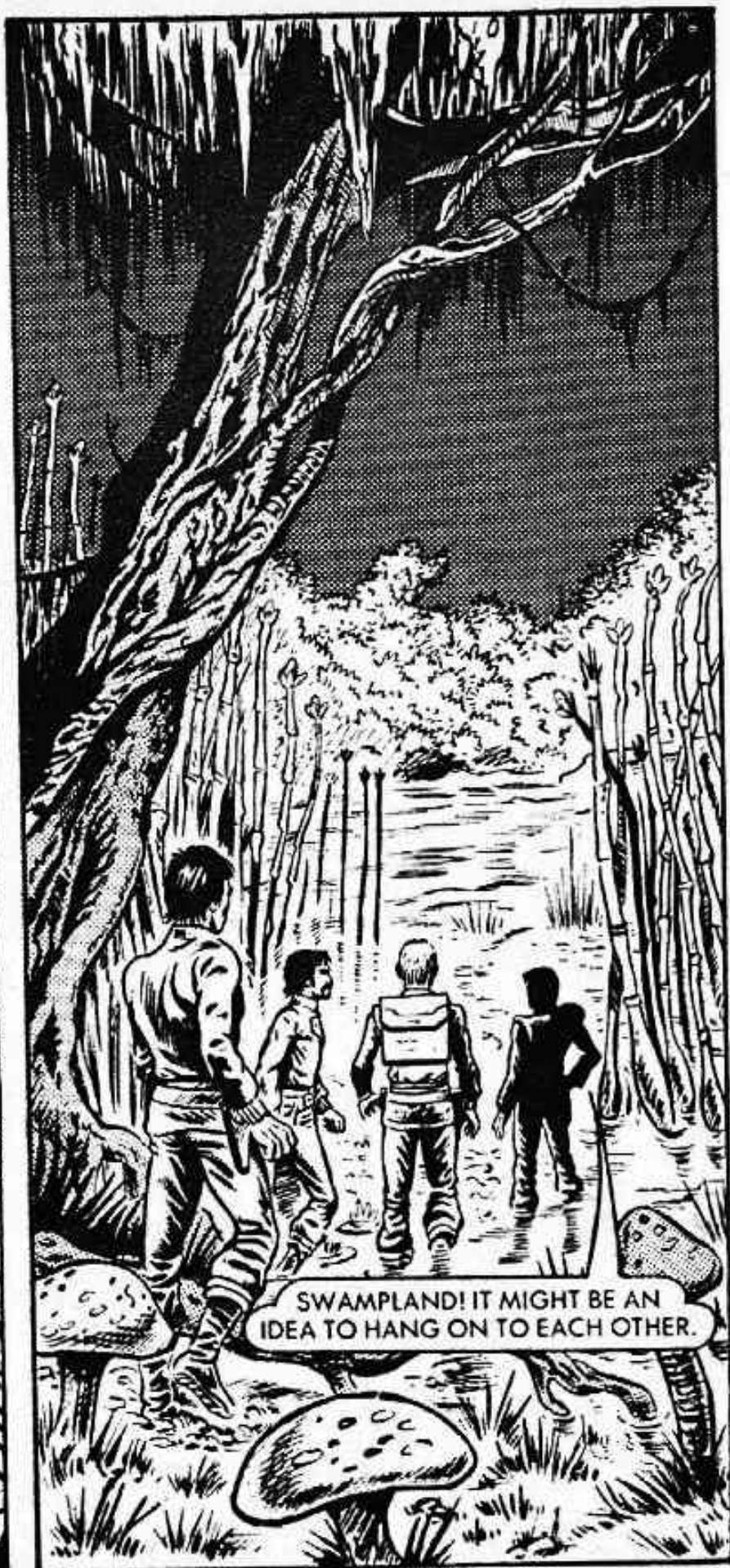
CAPTAIN, THEY'RE ALL RIGHT!

IT'S KELSEY'S VOICE — BUT HE NEVER CALLS ME CAPTAIN BRENT, ONLY CAPTAIN. LOOK AT THE TRAPPED BUBBLES!

THEY'VE BURST! THEY REACTED TO WHAT SEEMED TO BE LIEUTENANT KELSEY'S VOICE.

WE WERE TOLD WHERE THE WANDERER IS. WE'RE STILL GOING TO REACH IT TO SEE WHAT HAS HAPPENED. BUT IN OUR OWN WAY. HERE'S HOW I FIGURE IT...

DARKNESS FELL, AND AS THE TWIN
MOONS ROSE...



BUT EVEN THAT PRECAUTION WASN'T ENOUGH —



GET BACK TO FIRM GROUND.
USE THE ROOTS!



MY SKIN IS TINGLING! HEAVEN
KNOWS WHAT THE WATER CONTAINS.

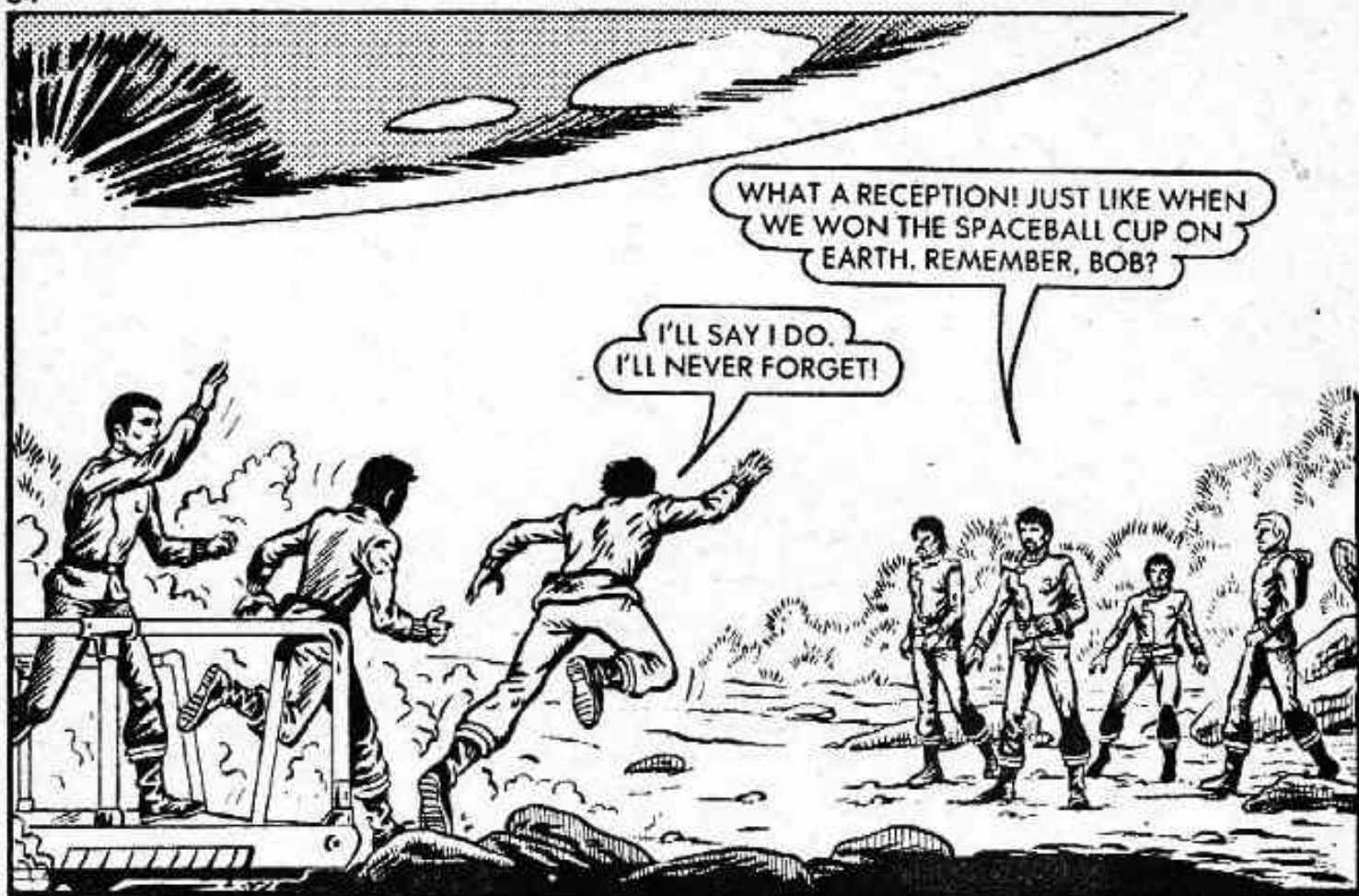




THEY APPROACHED CAUTIOUSLY —













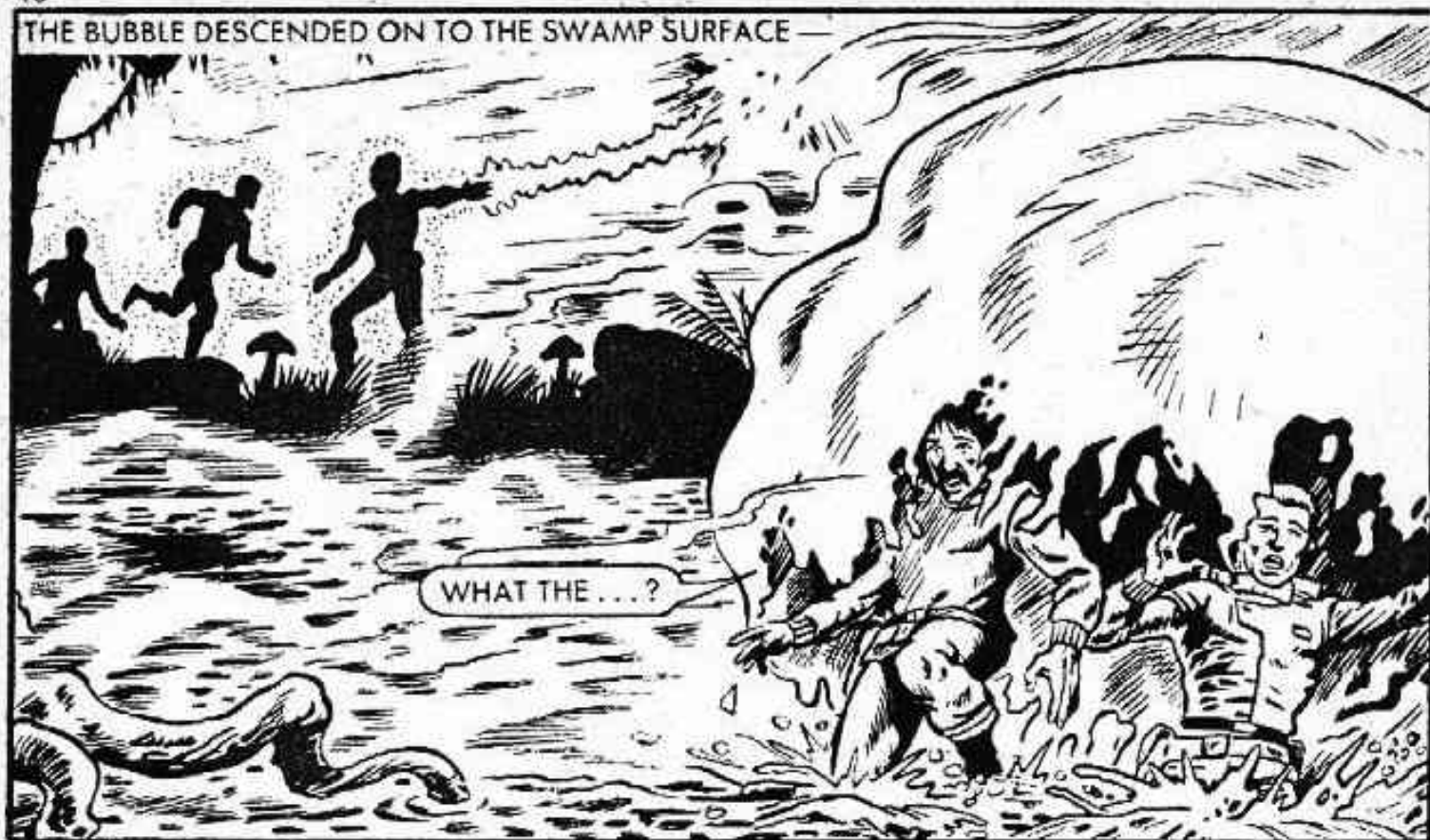
SOMETHING'S HAPPENING! THE
BUBBLE'S VIBRATING, CLOUDING OVER.

SUMMON MORE ENERGY!

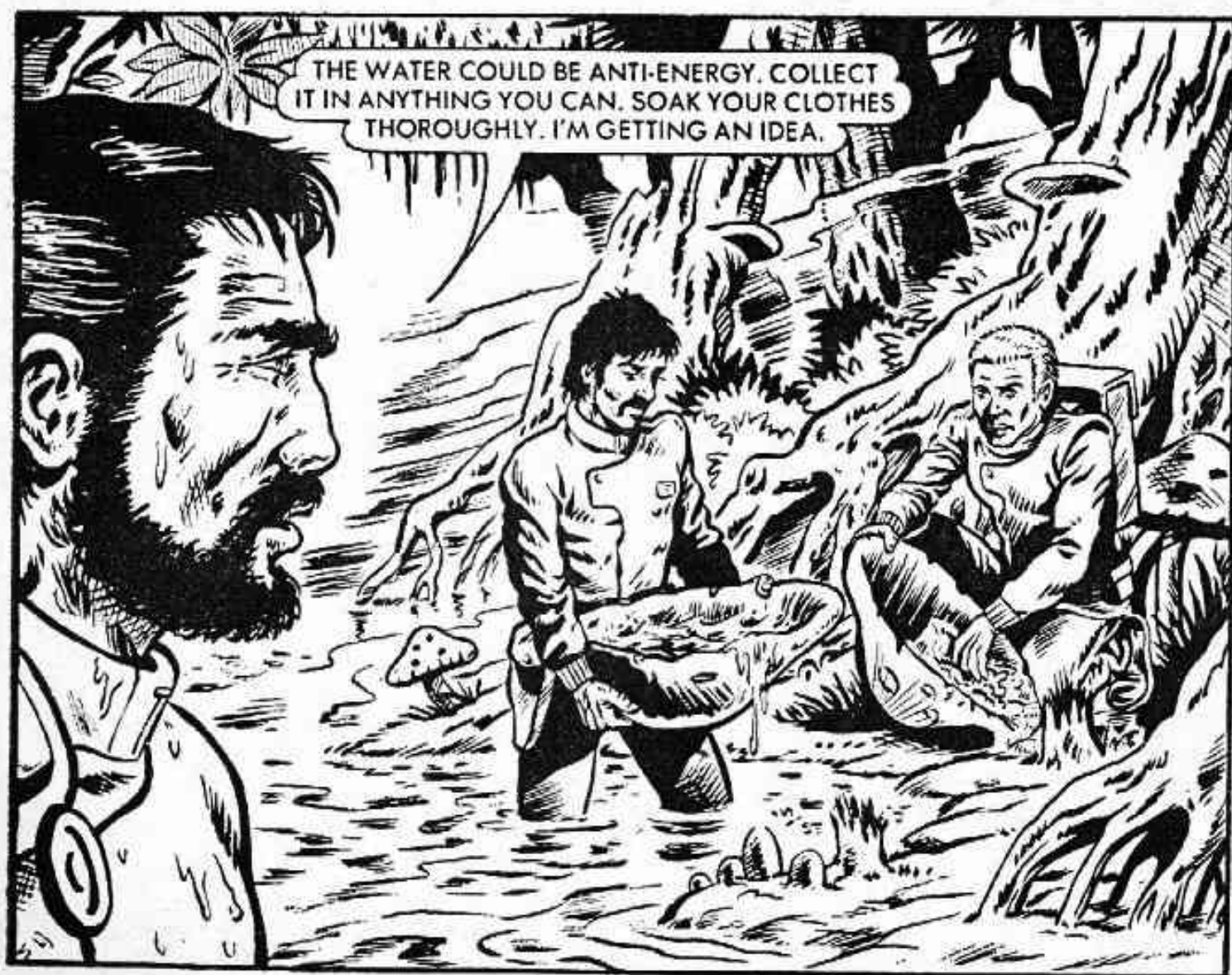
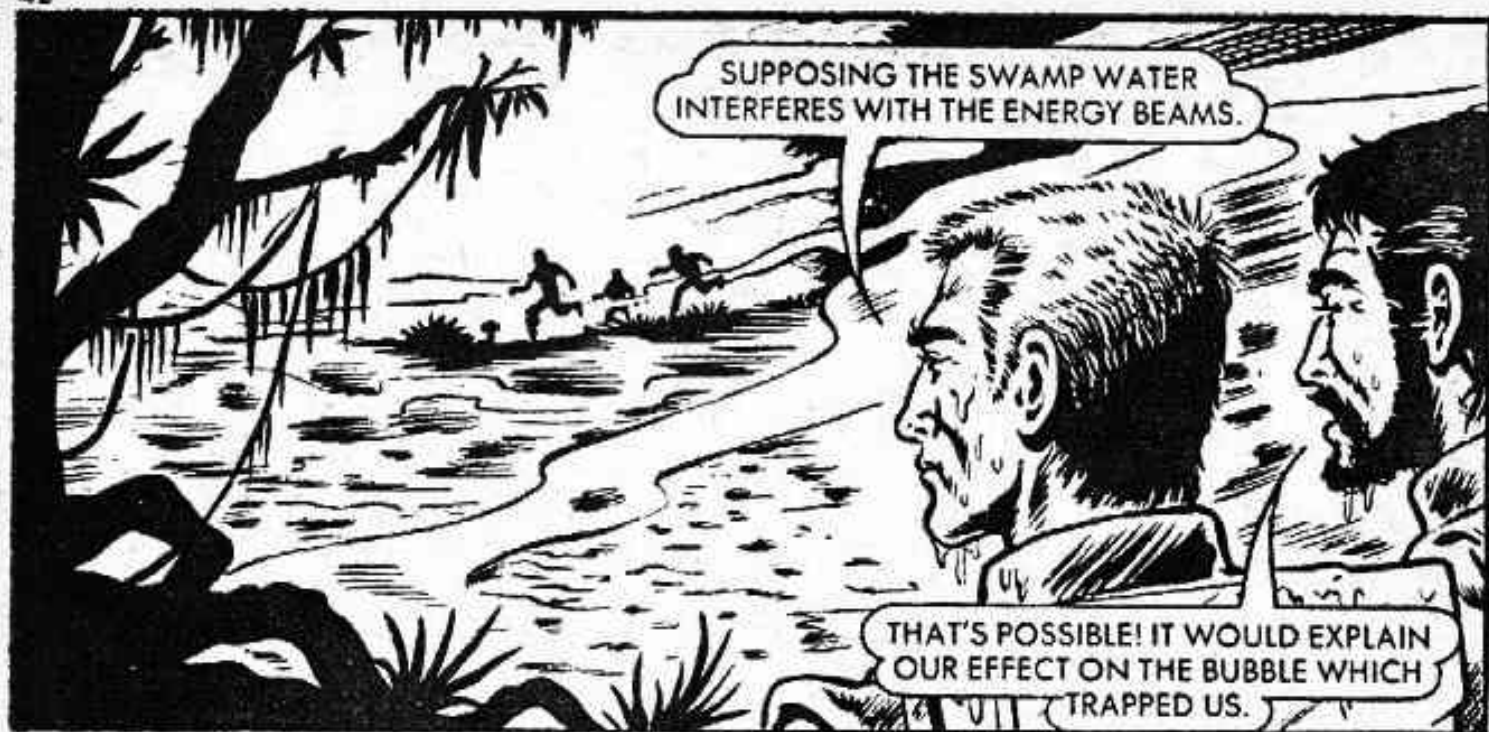




THE BUBBLE DESCENDED ON TO THE SWAMP SURFACE —







AS BRENT AND HIS MEN COLLECTED WATER —

CAPTAIN! A SHUTTLECRAFT!

IT MUST HAVE COME FROM SOME
OTHER EARLIER SPACESHIP.



REPAIRS WERE CARRIED OUT.

POWER UNIT SERVICEABLE, AT ABOUT 30%.

GOOD MAN! NEXT WE SEE TO OUR DEFENCES. I WANT HIGH-EFFICIENCY PUMPS WHICH ARE EASY TO CARRY.

IT WAS LABORIOUS WORK, BUT AT LAST —

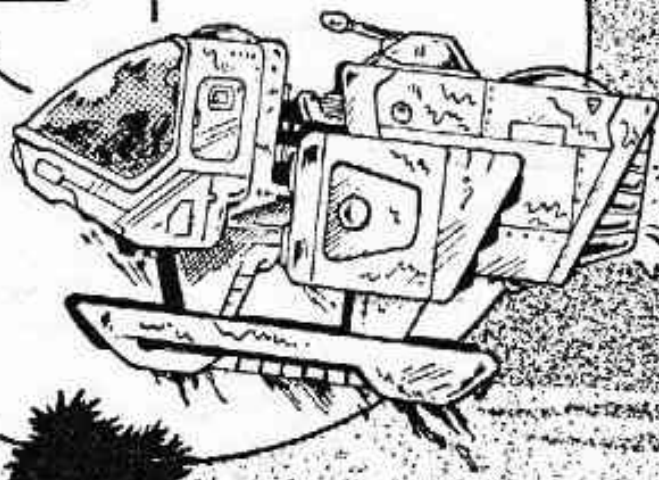
THAT'S THE LOT!

FILL EACH TANK WITH SWAMP WATER. WE HAVE TO TAKE A RISK. THIS IS MY PLAN —

DARKNESS FELL —

POWER ON! SHE'S ROLLING!

WE MAKE FOR WHERE
THE WANDERER IS.



NO SIGNS OF LIFE WITHIN. THE SHUTTLE'S 'PROBE'
WOULD DETECT IT. CAREFUL! DON'T MOVE IN TOO
FAST.



BRENT AND TALA DROPPED INTO AN OPEN AIRLOCK TO INVESTIGATE, AND —



ON A NEARBY HILL —

THEY'RE INSIDE. I THINK I KNOW
HOW CAPTAIN BRENT'S MIND WORKS.

WE MAKE OUR MOVE
WHEN DARKNESS LIFTS.

BACK IN WANDERER —

WELL, WHAT NEXT?

SOMEWHERE ON THOSE SLOPES IS THE ALIEN
POWER SOURCE AND WHATEVER NOW
CONTROLS MY CREW. WE HAVE TO FIND
OUT WHAT'S GOING ON.

AS DAWN BROKE —



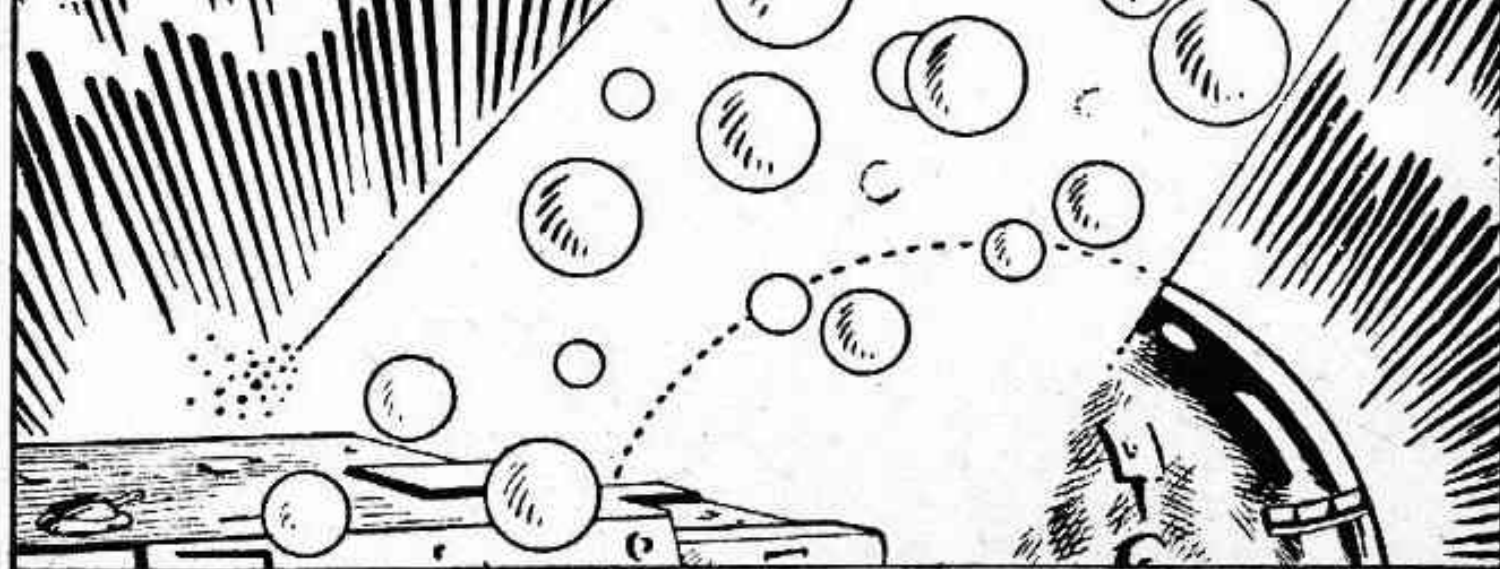
IT'S THE POWER SOURCE. CHECK ALL BULKHEADS
AND RAISE OUR PROTECTIVE SCREENS.

WHILE THE SHIP'S SEALED WE'RE SAFE.
WE CAN ONLY LEAVE DURING DARKNESS.

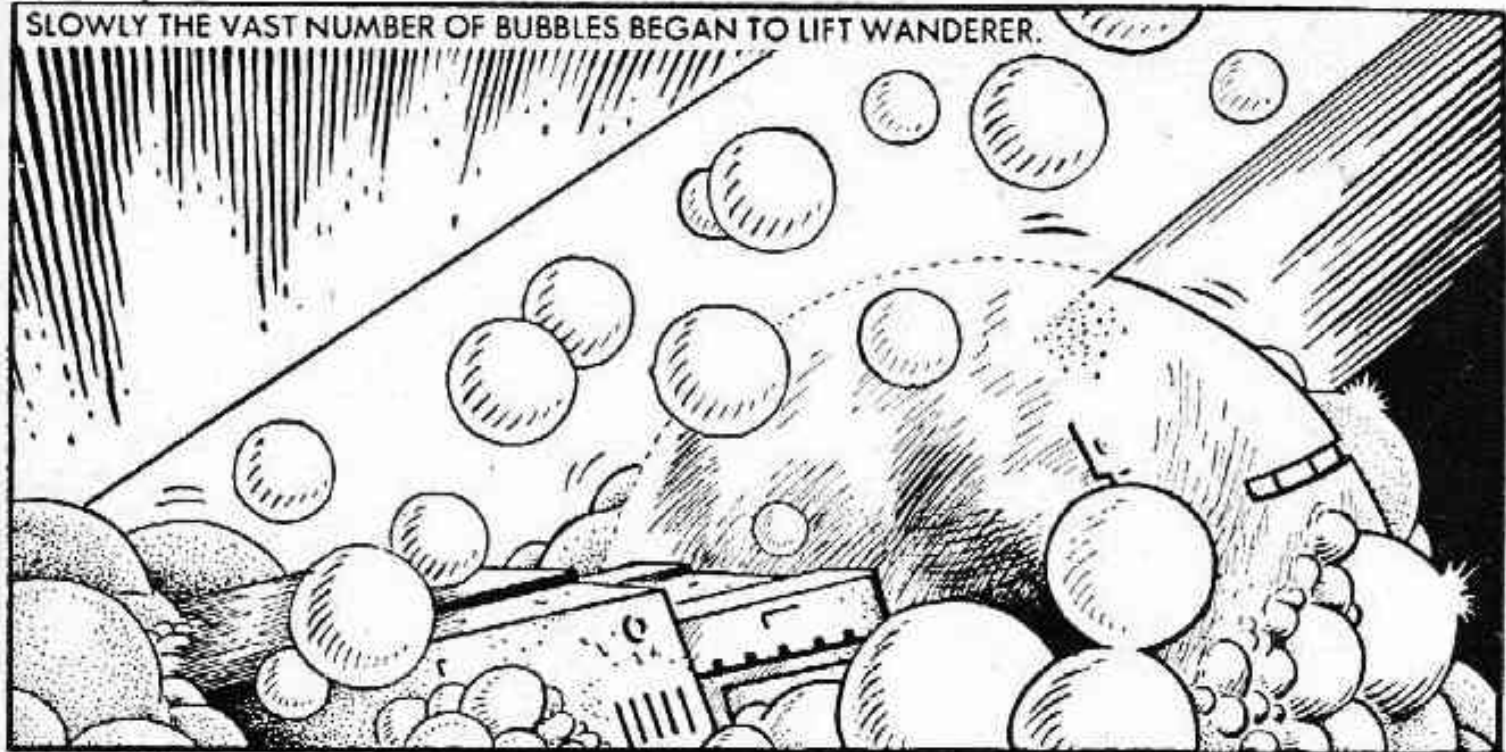




THE BUBBLES MASSSED ON THE HULL —



SLOWLY THE VAST NUMBER OF BUBBLES BEGAN TO LIFT WANDERER.

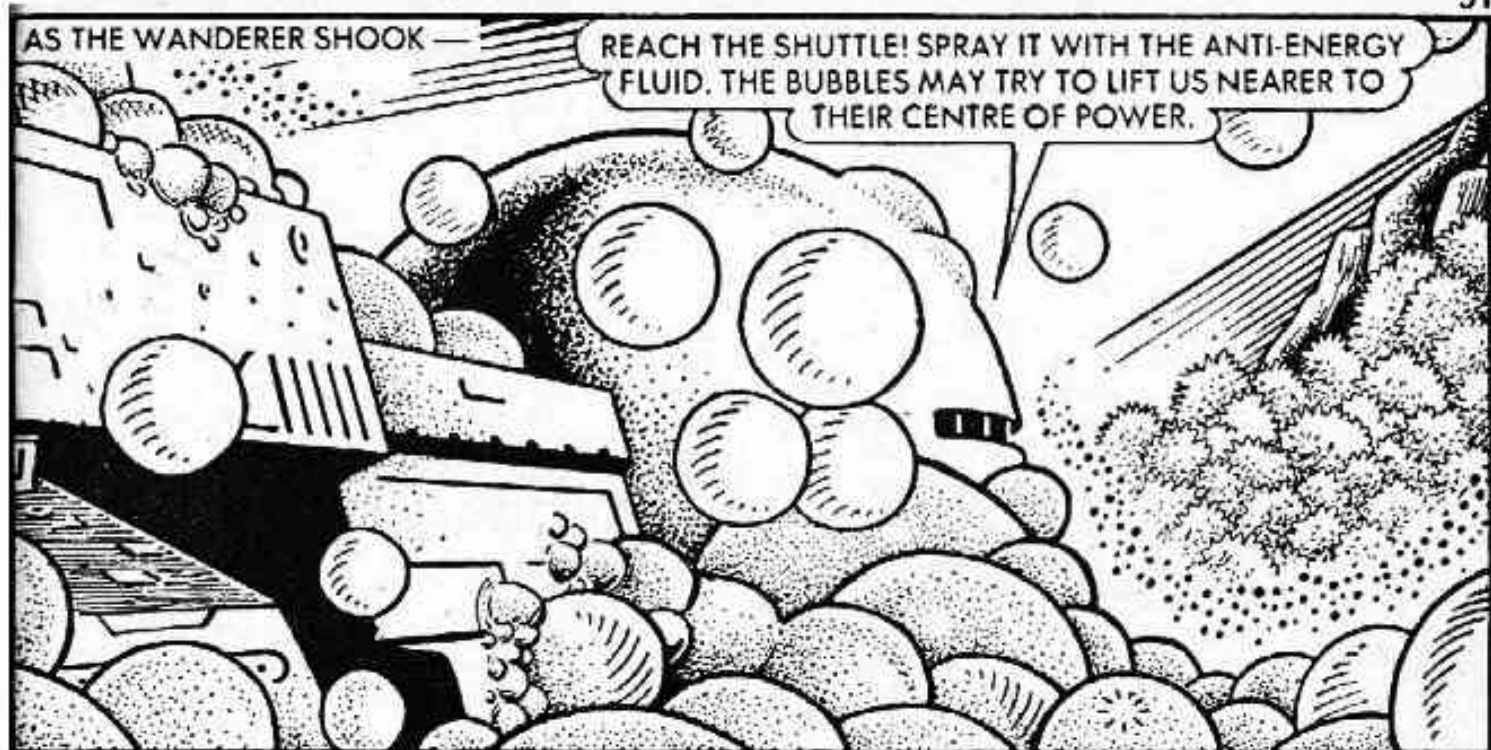


THE WANDERER'S MOVING. WE'RE BEING LIFTED BY THE BUBBLES! PRESSURE ON THE HATCHES HAS INCREASED.

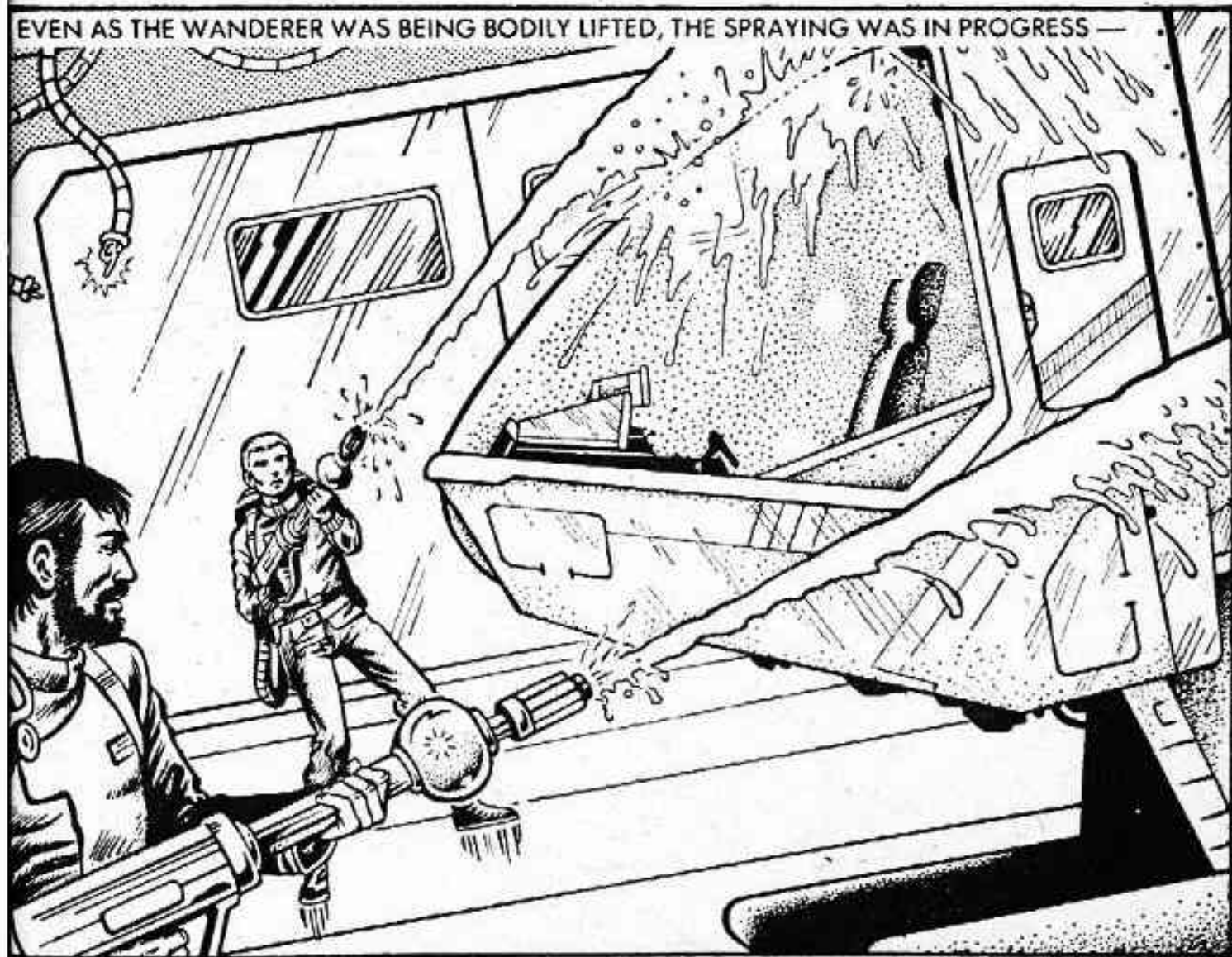


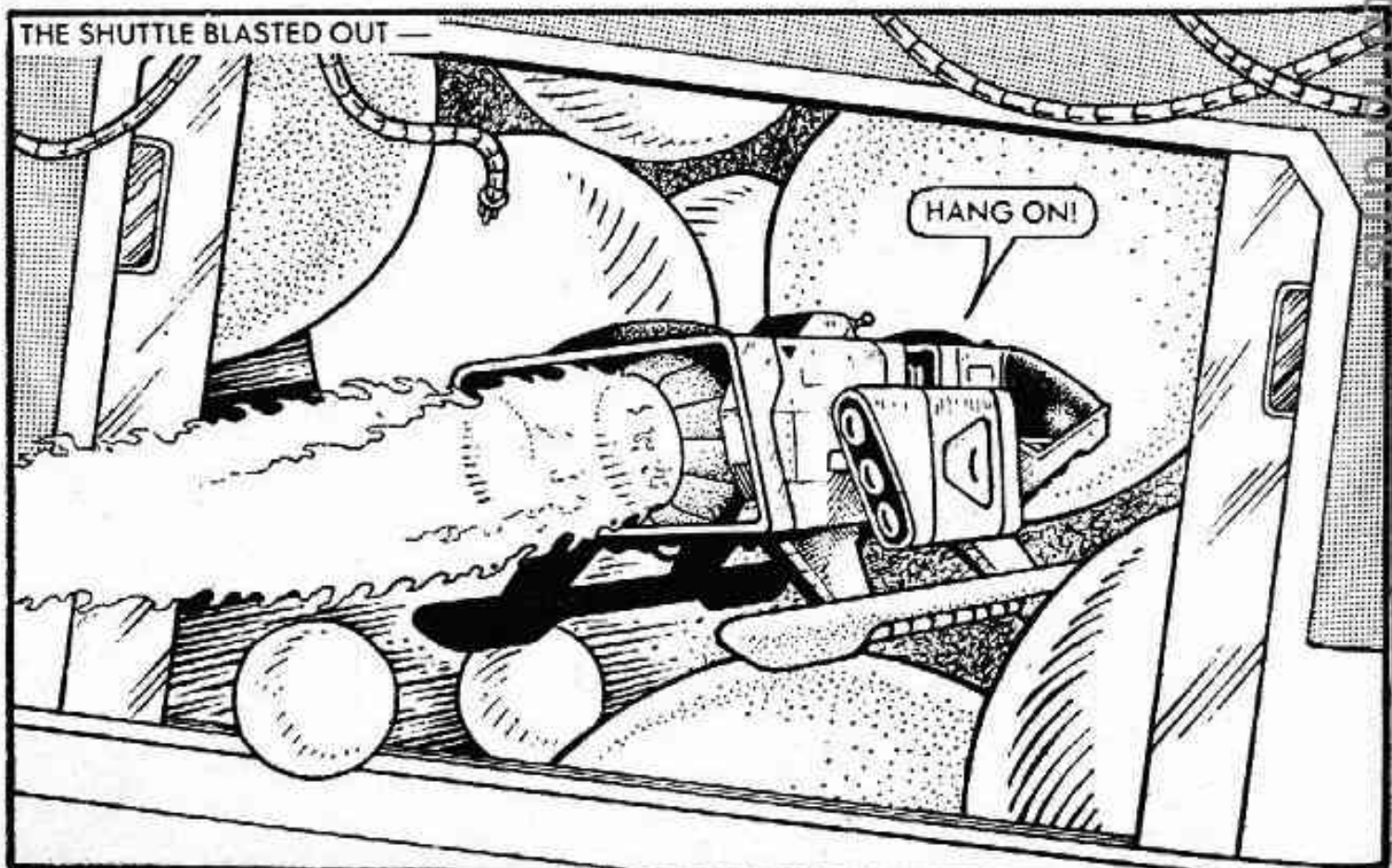
AS THE WANDERER SHOOK —

REACH THE SHUTTLE! SPRAY IT WITH THE ANTI-ENERGY FLUID. THE BUBBLES MAY TRY TO LIFT US NEARER TO THEIR CENTRE OF POWER.



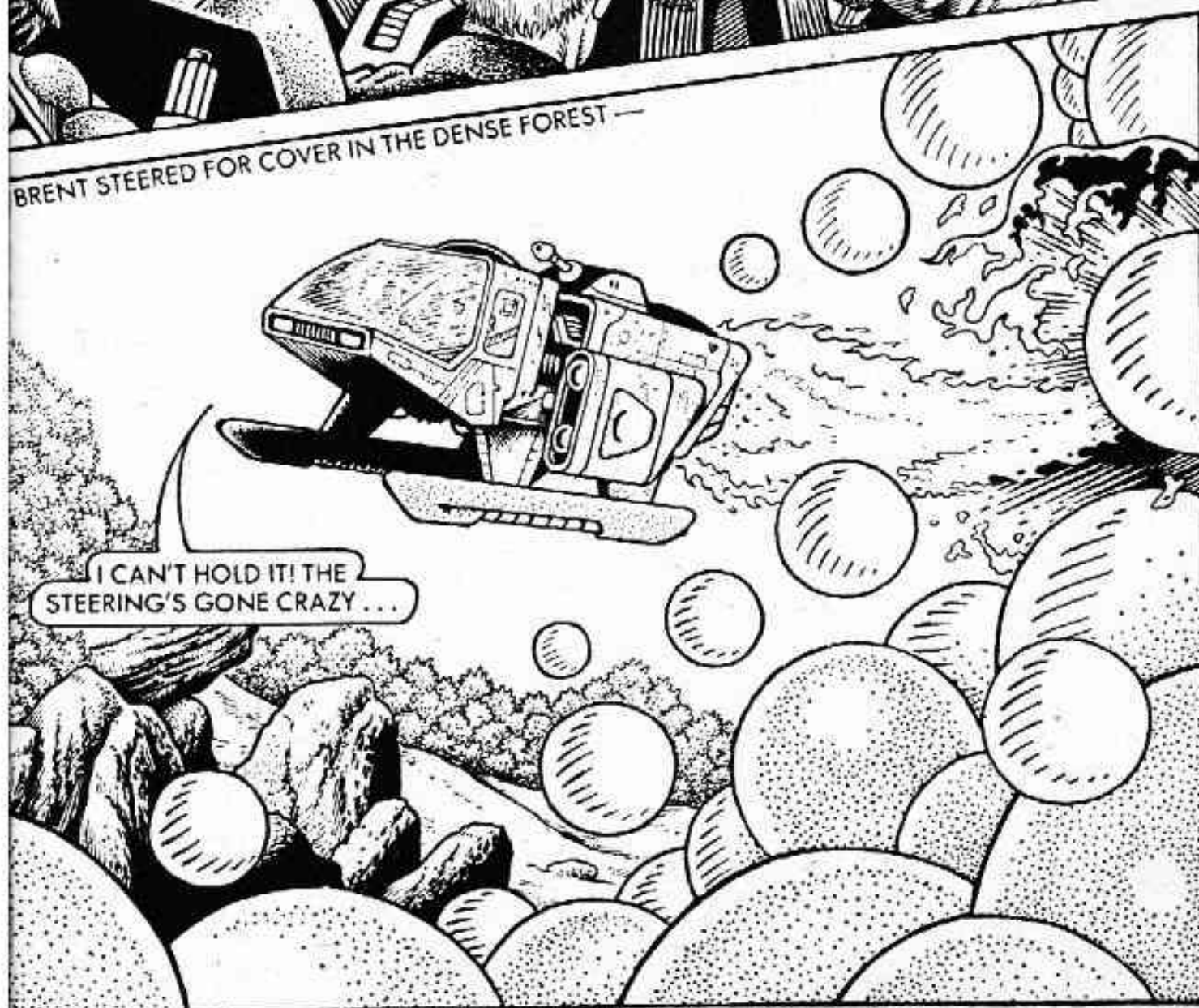
EVEN AS THE WANDERER WAS BEING BODILY LIFTED, THE SPRAYING WAS IN PROGRESS —







BRENT STEERED FOR COVER IN THE DENSE FOREST —

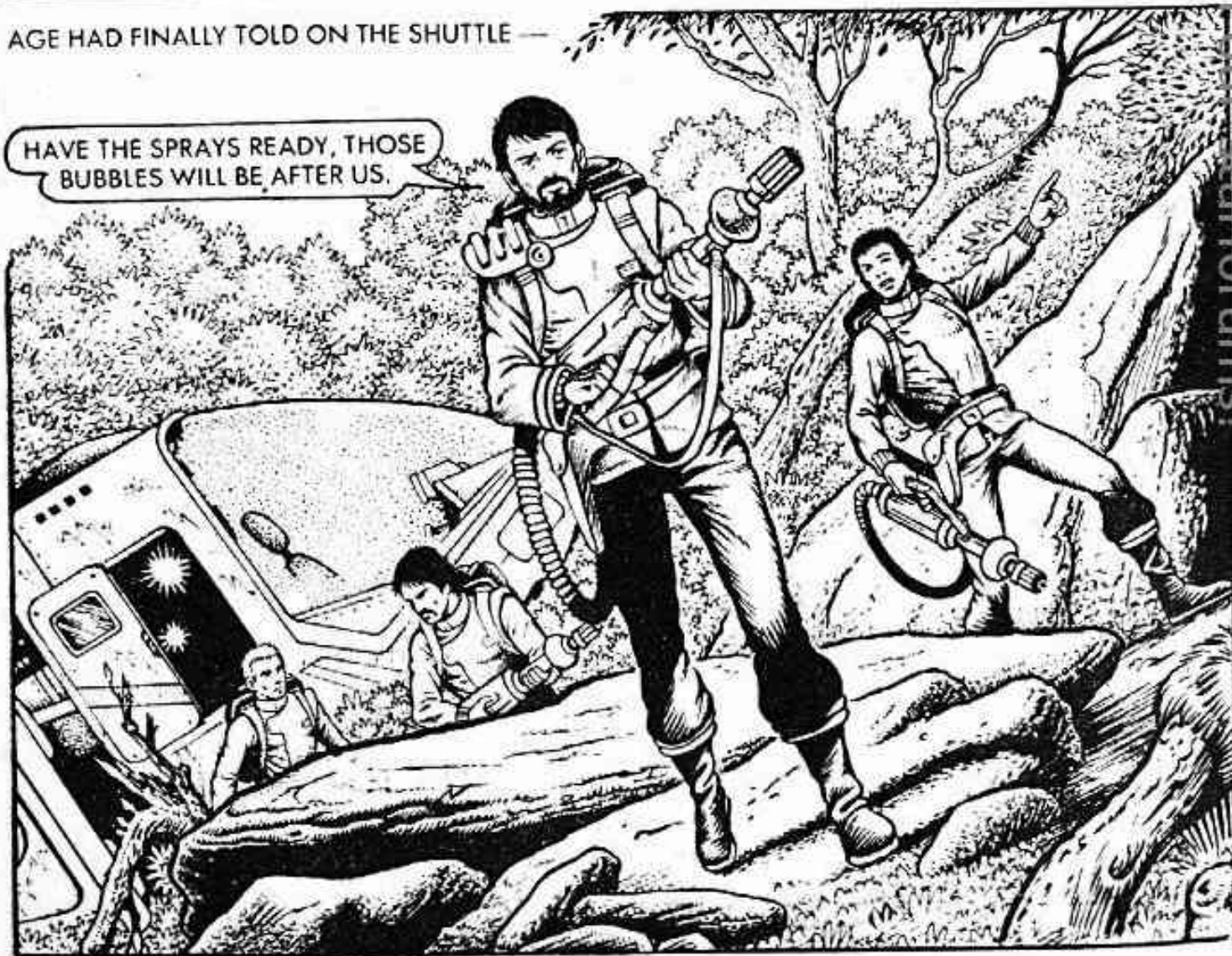


THE SHUTTLE CRASHED —



AGE HAD FINALLY TOLD ON THE SHUTTLE —

HAVE THE SPRAYS READY, THOSE
BUBBLES WILL BE AFTER US.



BUBBLES CONVERGED ON THEM —

OPEN UP — FIRE!

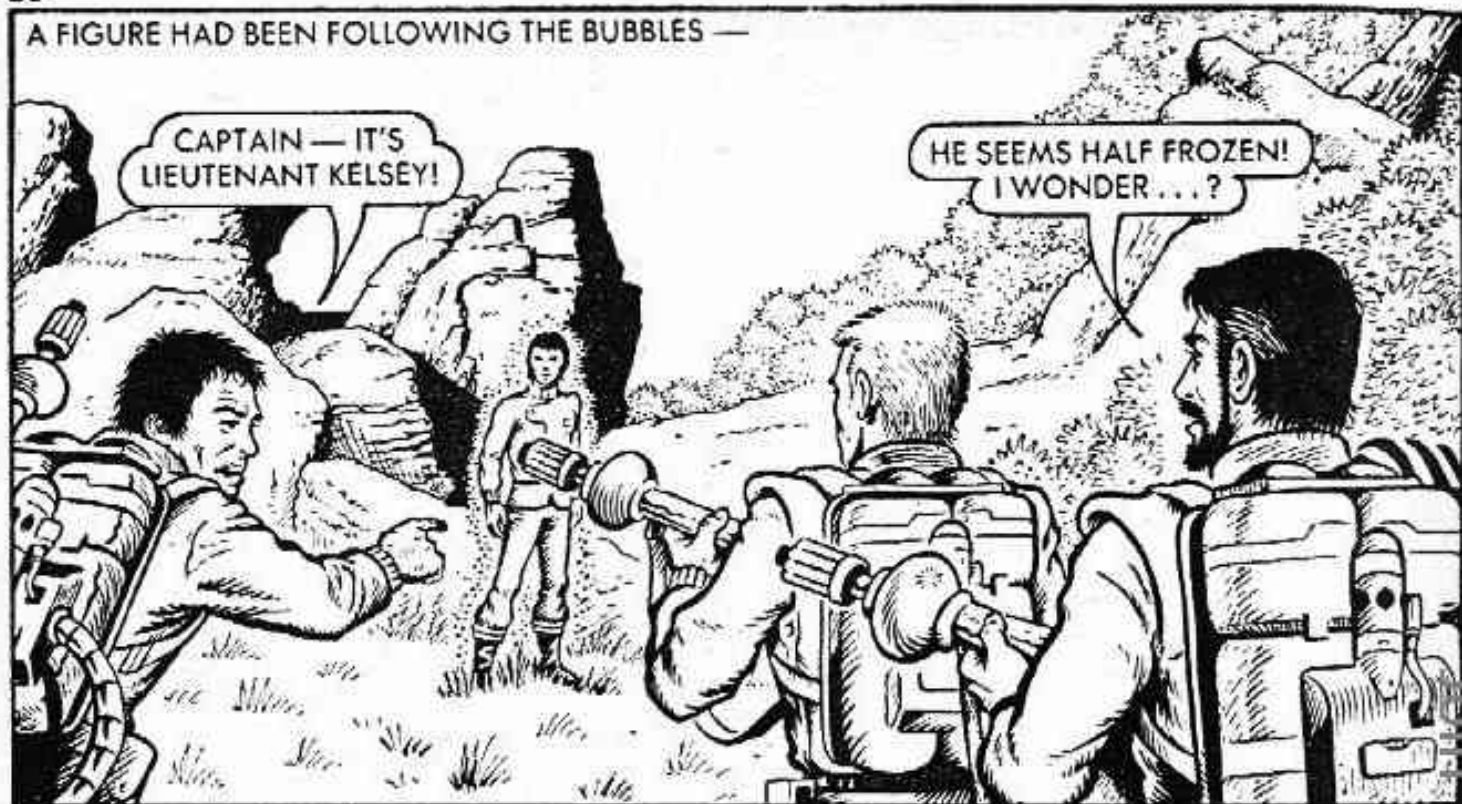
DON'T WASTE A DROP.

THEY'RE BURSTING!
THE FLUID DESTROYS THEM.

THE LAST ORB FINALLY DISSOLVED.



A FIGURE HAD BEEN FOLLOWING THE BUBBLES —



BRENT MOVED LIKE LIGHTNING ...



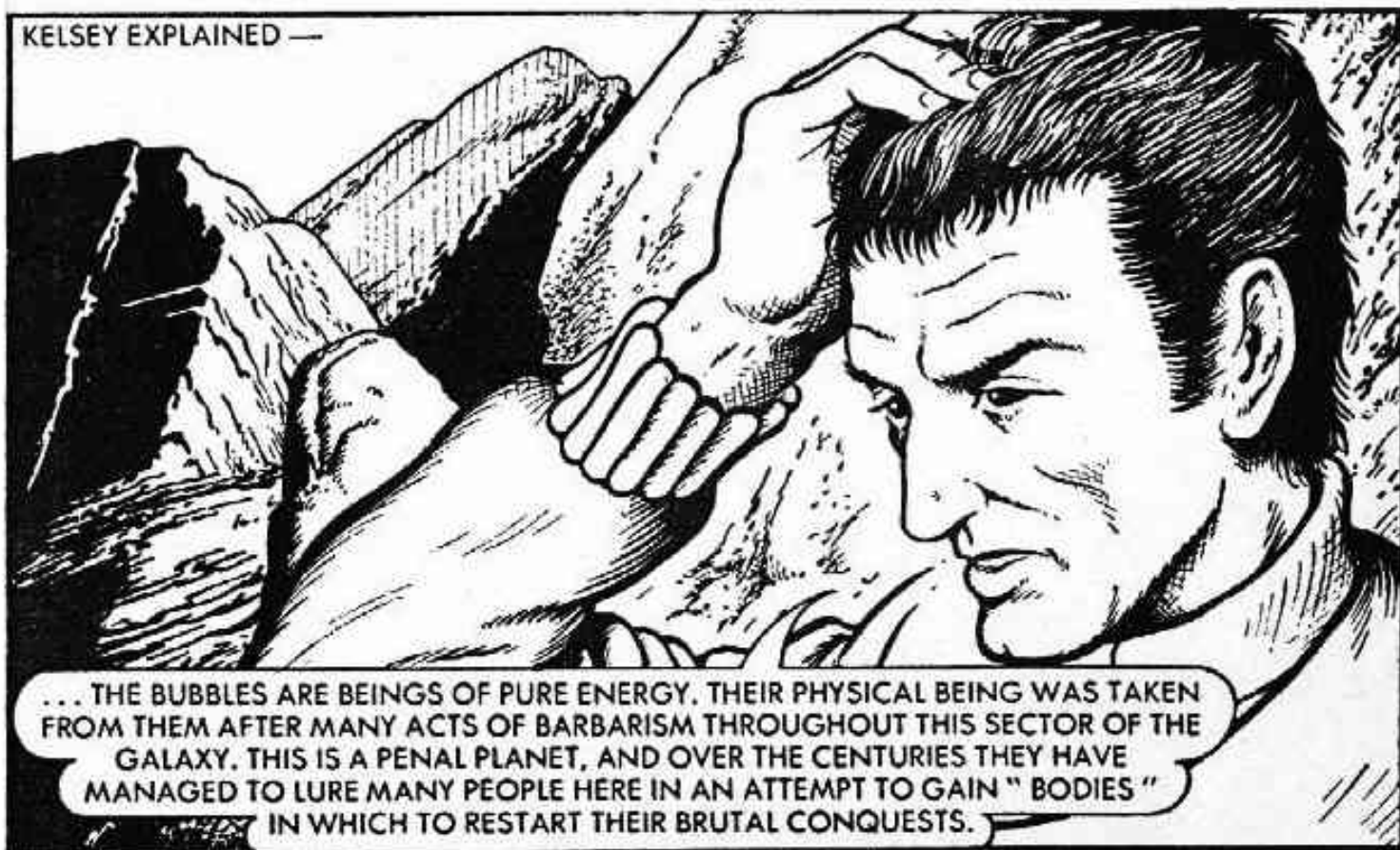
THE RESULT OF BRENT'S ATTACK WAS STARTLING —

WHAT — WHAT'S
HAPPENED? CAPTAIN?

THE AURA'S GONE
FROM AROUND HIM.



KELSEY EXPLAINED —



... THE BUBBLES ARE BEINGS OF PURE ENERGY. THEIR PHYSICAL BEING WAS TAKEN FROM THEM AFTER MANY ACTS OF BARBARISM THROUGHOUT THIS SECTOR OF THE GALAXY. THIS IS A PENAL PLANET, AND OVER THE CENTURIES THEY HAVE MANAGED TO LURE MANY PEOPLE HERE IN AN ATTEMPT TO GAIN "BODIES" IN WHICH TO RESTART THEIR BRUTAL CONQUESTS.

THEY STAYED UNDER COVER UNTIL THE DAY FADED.



KELSEY TOOK THEM TO THE AREA OF THE POWER SOURCE —







DON LISTER STUMBLED —



HIS LASER TORCH BOUNCED CLEAR ...





DESPERATELY HE DIRECTED THE JET ON THE MULTIPLYING CRYSTALS AND BUBBLES —



BRENT LEFT THE CYLINDER AND RAN MADLY —



ANTI-ENERGY —!
DON'T STOP!



THE EXPANDING CRYSTALS AND THE ANTI-ENERGY CAUSED A LARGE EXPLOSION —



WHEN EVERY FORCEFIELD WAS SHATTERED AND DESTROYED, CREW-MEMBERS RETURNED TO NORMAL.

WHERE ARE WE? WHAT —
WHAT'S HAPPENING? CAPTAIN BRENT!

THEY'RE FREED! THE DESTRUCTION OF THE
CRYSTALS BROKE WHATEVER CONTROLLED THEM.
THE CRYSTALS WERE AN ENERGY SOURCE NEEDING
HUMAN BODIES TO TRANSFORM THAT ENERGY
INTO ACTION.



THE WANDERER CLIMBED INTO THE ALIEN SKIES.

EARTH BASE, HERE WE COME! THE MYSTERY OF MISSING SHIPS HAS BEEN SOLVED — AND A THREAT TO THE GALAXY AVERTED.



Printed and Published in Great Britain by D.C. THOMSON & CO., LTD.,
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DON'T FORGET TO READ THIS MONTH'S

OTHER

STARBLAZER

SPACE FICTION ADVENTURE IN PICTURES No. 110



IMPRISONED WITHIN A CRYOCELL, THE MOST EVIL BEING
IN THE GALAXY PLOTTED REVENGE

THE TOMB of TARA

ON SALE AT YOUR NEWSAGENT'S

THURSDAY, MARCH 18, 1965

STARBLAZER'S
GUIDE TO THE SPACEMEN 16-17

COSMONAUT'S FIVE-YARD STROLL

MAN STEPS INTO SPACE

MAN stepped out of the cabin of a spaceship into Outer Space for the first time today.

Soviet Colonel Alexei Leonov opened the hatch of Voshkod II at 8.30 a.m. (GMT) and moved about five yards away. Colonel Pavel Ivanovich Belyayev, 39, and Lt. Colonel Alexei Archipovich Leonov, 30, were the crew on this mission lasting 1 day 2 hr. 2 min. 17 sec.

BELYAYEV



LEONEV



Belyayev died on January 10, 1970. Leonov flew as commander of Soyuz 19 during the joint US-USSR mission called ASTP on July 15, 1975. His mission lasted 5 days 22 hr. 31 min. Leonov is now retired.